

the advent wreath

The tradition of the Advent Wreath is a fun way for us to get ready for Christmas by slowing down and embracing God's light. Each week of Advent, we light a new candle: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, until all the candles shine bright. On Christmas Eve, we light the center candle to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

A round wreath reminds us of God's never-ending love, and the growing light reminds us that Jesus is coming closer each day. Lighting the candles together as a church and as a family helps us pause, talk, pray, and make room for Jesus in our hearts and homes.

This year's Advent Kit includes supplies for your family to create your own wreath that can be used year after year. Store the supplies with your Christmas decorations and pull them out each year to participate in the tradition!



Setting up your wreath

Supplies: round cardboard sheet, electric candles, pine branches, green paper, markers, crayons, scissors, glue

1. Gather your supplies.
2. Trace the cardboard circle onto green paper, cut it out, and glue it to the cardboard OR color the cardboard circle green.
3. Bend back the wire tails on the pine branches and add it to the cardboard wreath. Feel free to secure it with tape or hot glue.
4. Assemble your candles as shown below.
5. Feel free to be creative and add extra decorations with paper or crayons, such as holly berries, additional greenery, etc.
6. Place your assembled wreath in a central location where your family will see it each day, such as the living room, fireplace mantle, or kitchen table.



week 1: hope



Gather your family around the Advent Wreath. Try to include each person in the liturgy by assigning them words or lighting the candles.

Leader: Today we light the first candle, the Candle of Hope.

All: Hope helps us remember that God keeps promises.

Leader: Long ago, God's people waited and hoped for a Savior to be born. His name was Jesus. Today, we have hope because we know that God is with us always.

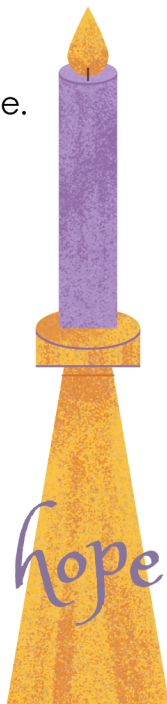
One: Why do we light this candle?

All: We light it to remind us that Jesus is our hope

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of Hope, help us trust you even when we have to wait. Shine your light in our home so that we can shine your love in our world. Amen.

Light the first purple candle.



week 2: peace



Gather your family around the Advent Wreath. Try to include each person in the liturgy by assigning them words or lighting the candles.

Leader: Last week, we lit the candle of Hope. Today, we light the candle of Peace.

All: Jesus brings peace to our hearts and our world.

Leader: When things feel busy or loud, Jesus can give us calm. When the world feels scary, Jesus brings peace.

One: Why do we light this candle?

All: We light it to remember that Jesus is our peace.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of Peace, help us slow down and feel your calming presence. Make our family a source of peace for the world. Amen.

Light the first and second purple candles.



week 3: joy



Gather your family around the Advent Wreath. Try to include each person in the liturgy by assigning them words or lighting the candles.

Leader: Today we light the candles of Hope and Peace, and the third candle, the Candle of Joy.

All: Joy is a gift God gives us.

Leader: Even when things are hard, Jesus brings joy that shines bright.

One: Why do we light this candle?

All: We light it to remember that Jesus is our joy.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of Joy, fill our hearts with gladness. Help us share joy with others. Amen.

Light the first and second purple candles, then light the pink candle.



week 4: love



Gather your family around the Advent Wreath. Try to include each person in the liturgy by assigning them words or lighting the candles.

Leader: Today we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and the fourth candle, the Candle of Love.

All: God loves the world so much!

Leader: Jesus came to show us how much God loves the world.

One: Why do we light this candle?

All: We light it to remember that Jesus brings love for all people.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of Love, help us love you and love others. Make our hearts warm with your overflowing love. Amen.

Light the first and second purple candles, the pink candle, then the final purple candle.



christmas eve: christ



Gather your family around the Advent Wreath. Try to include each person in the liturgy by assigning them words or lighting the candles.

Leader: Tonight, we light all the candles on our wreath. We celebrate that...

All: Jesus is born! Light has come into the world!

Leader: Jesus brings hope, peace, joy, and love. Tonight, we celebrate his birth.

Child: Why do we light these candles?

All: We light these candles to remember that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Jesus, thank you for coming to live among us. Shine your love in our hearts. Help us share your light with the world. Amen.

Light the first and second purple candles, the pink candle, and the final purple candle. Then, light the white candle.



hope peace joy love christ

christmas day



Gather your family around the Advent Wreath. Try to include each person in the liturgy by assigning them words or lighting the candles.

As a Family: Read aloud John 1:1-14.

Leader: Today is Christmas! We celebrate that Jesus is born!

All: Jesus is our Light and our Good News.

Leader: We have been waiting all Advent long. Today we light the candles and celebrate that Jesus, the Light of the World, has come to be with us.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness...

All: ...and the darkness cannot put it out!

Light all the candles on your Advent wreath. Some people choose to swap out the colorful candles for all white candles on Christmas Day. Gather together around the Advent wreath and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus!

