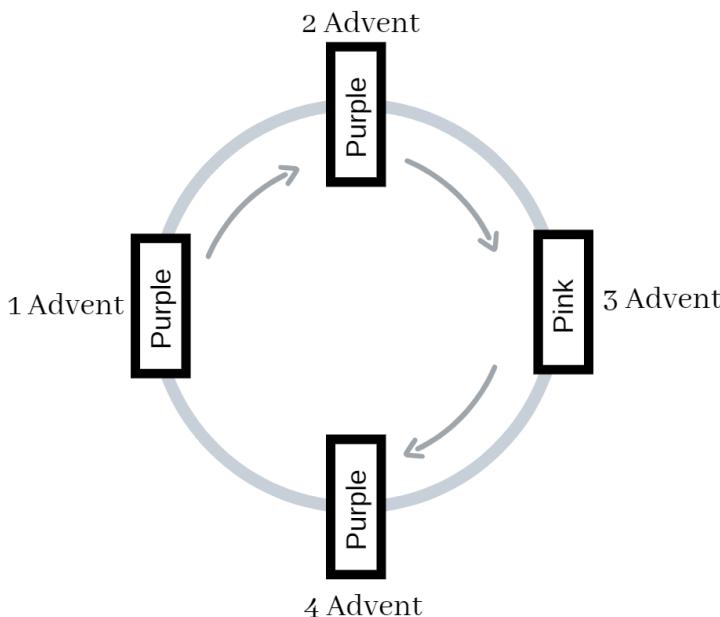


How to Use the Wreath

Because there are four Sundays in Advent, there are four candles in an Advent wreath. An additional candle is lit every week of Advent until all four candles are lit by the time we reach Christmas Eve. This helps us recognize the passage of time during Advent. You may notice a pink or “rose” candle has been included in your Advent wreath. This candle is pink because the third Sunday of Advent is “Gaudate Sunday” or “Joy Sunday.” It is meant to be a sign of joy.

Candle lighting

Week 1 of Advent	1 Advent candle
Week 2 of Advent	1 Advent candle + 2 Advent candle
Week 3 of Advent	1 Advent candle + 2 Advent candle + 3 Advent candle (pink)
Week 4 of Advent	All candles



How the Service Works

The services in this booklet are designed to be held at home every day of Advent, December 1-December 23. When the service includes multiple people, one person is to act as the “Leader” and speak the unbolted portions, while others who participate are to take the parts of the “People” and join in on speaking the bolded portions. When the service is conducted alone, all portions are read by the individual either silently or aloud.

As noted in the text, the bolded anthem in the middle of each service can be sung to the tune of “O come, O come Emmanuel.” You can hear the tune at saintthomasepiscopal.org if you are unfamiliar with it.

I hope that through creating your own Advent wreath and taking part in these services, you are able to draw into deeper relationship with Christ.

Peace,

Megan +

Advent Liturgy for the Home

When used in private homes, the Advent Wreath provides a focus for devotions at the time of the evening meal. The following services may be used every day of Advent.

WEEK OF 1 ADVENT

Sunday, December 1—Saturday, December 7

The house is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

(Matthew 24:42-44)

Leader Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The first candle in the Advent wreath is now lit

O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
shall come to thee O Israel.

Can be sung to the tune of “O come, O come Emmanuel”

Leader Let us pray using the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Leader Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader The Lord bless us and keep us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

People **Amen.**

WEEK OF 2 ADVENT

Sunday, December 8—Saturday, December 14

The house is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

(Luke 3:2b-6)

Leader Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The first and second candles in the Advent wreath are now lit

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel

shall come to thee O Israel

Can be sung to the tune of “O come, O come Emmanuel”

Leader Let us pray using the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Leader Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader The Lord bless us and keep us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

People **Amen.**

WEEK OF 3 ADVENT
Sunday, December 15—Saturday, December 21

The house is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

(Luke 3:15-16)

Leader Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The first, second, and third (pink) candles in the Advent wreath are now lit

**O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel

shall come to thee O Israel

Can be sung to the tune of “O come, O come Emmanuel”

Leader Let us pray using the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those

 who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Leader Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader The Lord bless us and keep us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

People **Amen.**

WEEK OF 4 ADVENT
Sunday, December 22—Monday, December 23

The house is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

(Luke 1:39-42)

Leader Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All candles in the Advent wreath are now lit

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all manking;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel

shall come to thee O Israel

Can be sung to the tune of "O come, O come Emmanuel"

Leader Let us pray using the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Leader O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Leader The Lord bless us and keep us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.

People **Amen.**

Leader The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

People **Amen.**