

Advent Services for Families

The candles:

The Hope candle is purple

The Peace candle is purple

The Joy candle is pink

The Love candle is purple

The Christ candle is white



Advent Services for Families

Advent means “the coming” and is the period of time covered by the four Sundays preceding Christmas. It has been a custom for many years to prepare the mind and heart for Christmas by special ceremonies during the Advent season.

A time should be chosen, when all members of the family can gather together to prepare their hearts during the Christmas season.



Overview:

First Sunday of Advent: Hope candle

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace candle

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy candle

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love candle

Christmas Eve or Day: Christ candle

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

Mother: For almost a month now, we have been getting ready for this special day when we celebrate the coming of Jesus. In just a few moments we will light our Christ candle; but first let us remember what each of our four Advent candles stand for.

Child: The hope candle reminds us of the promise God made to his people long ago.

Child: The peace candle reminds us to make room for the needs of others.

Child: The joy candle reminds us of the joyful announcement to the shepherds of the birth of Jesus, the Christ.

Child: The love candle reminds us of the light of the star which guided the wisemen to Bethlehem.

Father: The Christ candle reminds us that we have Christmas because of the “Good News” which came to us through Jesus.

SING SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

All Pray: O God, we thank you for your gift of Jesus.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Father: As we enter this last week of Advent, let us light the candles once more.

Child: The candle of hope reminds us of the promise God made to his people long ago.

Child: The candle of peace reminds us to make room for the needs of others.

Child: The candle of joy reminds us of the joyful announcement to the shepherds of the birth of Jesus.

Father: The fourth candle, the candle of love, reminds us of the light of the star which guided the wisemen to Bethlehem where Jesus was in the manger. (Reads Matthew 2:1-12)

Child: What can we give?

Mother: Like the wisemen, we too can give gifts. We can share our toys and our games. We can give happiness and friendship to those around us.

SING LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Come, they told me. Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum.
A newborn King to see. Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum.
Our finest gifts we bring. Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum.

To lay before the King. Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum.
Rum-pum-pum-pum. Rum-pum-pum.
So, to honor Him. Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum.
When we come.

All Pray: Father, be with us as we prepare to receive your gift of Jesus. Amen.

First Sunday in Advent

Father: Today is the first Sunday in Advent.

Child: What is Advent?

Father: It is the season for preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus on Christmas day and the time to remember the promise God made to his people.

Mother: As we light our first Advent candle, the candle of hope, let us think of the promise that God made to his people long ago through the words of his prophet, Isaiah.

Reader: Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

SING JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonder of his love.

All Pray: Father, be with us as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the promised Hope of the world. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent

Mother: Today is the second Sunday in Advent.

Child: As we relight our first Advent candle, it reminds us of the promise God made to his people long ago.

Father: As we light the second candle, the candle of peace, let us remember Joseph and Mary journeying to Bethlehem and searching for a room where they could spend the night. And let us remember to make room for the needs of others.

Child: How can we do this?

Mother: We can be sure in our lives that we do not discriminate or show prejudice to those who differ from us in race or religion or nation. We can offer food and clothing sometimes. And always we can offer friendship and kindness.

Reader: Luke 2:1-7

SING O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, o come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, o come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

All Pray: Father, we give thanks for your peace. Prepare us for the coming of Jesus that we might bring hope and peace to your world. Amen.

Third Sunday in Advent

Father: This is the third Sunday in Advent and once again we relight our candles of Hope and Peace.

Child: The candle of hope reminds us of the promise God made to his people long ago.

Child: The candle of peace reminds us to make room for the needs of others.

Child: The third candle, the candle of joy, reminds us of the joyful announcement to the shepherds in the field of the birth of the Christ.

Reader: Luke 2:8-20

SING HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Child: Like the shepherds we are joyfully praising God today for giving us Jesus!

Mother: We pray that during this third Advent week, we may be like the shepherds who left their fields to praise God for the gift of Jesus.

All Pray: Father, we give thanks for the good news of great joy—the joy of the coming of Jesus! Fill our hearts and homes with that joy that Christmas might truly come. Amen.