December Worship Connection

Advent Wreath

During the Season of Advent, we light the candles of the Advent Wreath. The four blue candles represent the four weeks of preparation before the birth of Jesus Christ. The white candle represents the presence of Jesus at his birth and is lit on Christmas Eve.

Lighting the Advent Wreath is a beloved tradition for many Christians. As we approach Christmas the days grow shorter and the nights longer. The scripture readings of Advent can sometimes seem scary and difficult as they remind of sin in our world. But even as Advent calls us to recognize the challenges of life it reminds us of God’s constant presence. As we approach Christmas there is more light provided by the Advent Wreath to show us that God’s full presence is about to burst into the world when Jesus is born as a human being.

This Advent we encourage you to create your own Advent Wreath at home. We encourage you to light the candles of the Advent Wreath as your worship virtually or to take some time every Sunday to pray and light the candles together.

Below are instructions on how to create your Wreath and some recommended prayers to share when you light the Wreath.

Supplies provided:

* 4 blue candles and 1 white candle
* paper plate
* green tissue paper
* blue ribbon

Other supplies:

* paint/markers (optional)
* glue (we recommend Elmer’s)
* corrugated cardboard
* stapler

Instructions

* Cut cardboard into 4 pieces each about 4x4 inches and glue to the center of the top of the plate to help give the plate stability when you flip it over.
* Flip your plate upside down and paint/color the bottom of your plate. The bottom of your plate will be the top of the wreath.
* Rip tissue paper into small pieces about 1.5x1.5 inches. Glue these to the edge of your paper plate to create a green wreath.
* Tie your ribbon into a bow and staple it to the wreath part of your plate.
* Place your 4 blue candles in the center of the plate in a square and your white candle in the middle.
* On Sunday, November 29th light your first blue candle for the first week of Advent!

p.s. We provided a plate with a wreath design around the edge so that people who do not want to do the craft can simply place the candles on the plate and use it as their wreath.

Advent 1 (November 29th)

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light the first candle.*

Advent 2 (December 6th)

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light two candles.*

Advent 3 (December 13th)

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light three candles.*

Advent 4 (December 20th)

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light four candles.*

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

We praise you, O God, for this circle of love that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, help us to celebrate and honor the birth of your son. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may live out your incarnate love in all that we say and do. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light four candles and center candle.*