

# Advent Wreath Blessing



*The Advent wreath is a popular custom celebrated in churches and homes all over the world. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreens in which are placed three purple candles and one pink (rose) candle. You could place this wreath on a prayer table that is covered with a purple cloth.*

*The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that the love of God is without beginning or end. The evergreens represent the hope of everlasting happiness. The candles remind us that Jesus, the Light of the World, came to Earth to overcome the darkness of sin and selfishness. The purple candles represent our need to prepare for the coming of the Savior, and the pink (rose) candle—lit on the Third Sunday of Advent—reminds us to be joyful, for the coming of the Lord is near!*

*We invite you to join the St. Bridget faith community by lighting an Advent Wreath in your home. One person could serve as the leader of prayer, and another could proclaim the Scripture reading. A third could offer the intercessions.*

*(Begin by gathering around your Advent Wreath and making the Sign of the Cross)*

## **Leader:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

## **Leader:**

Let us praise God, who enlightens every heart, now and forever.

All: Amen.

## **Leader:**

As we begin the season of Advent, we open our hearts to God's love as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives and home. The candles of this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom.

Let us listen now to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*(Is 9:1-2, 5-6)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,  
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as men make merry when dividing spoils.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.  
His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom,  
which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

*(note: other readings may be used, especially the First Readings from each Sunday of Advent)*

*(After the reading all share a short time of silence for reflection)*

## INTERCESSIONS

Leader:

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may be always ready to welcome him by responding "Come Lord Jesus".

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love, we pray, Lord.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin, we pray,

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ, we pray, **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus, we pray, **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us pray the word Jesus gave us:

**All: Our Father . . .**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

Leader: Lord God, as you sent your Son Jesus into our world to be a light that shines in the darkness, bless our Advent Wreath with the power of your everlasting light.

May all who look upon this symbol of Advent see this wreath as a sign of faith in a world grown cold with disbelief, a symbol of hope in a time of gloom and despair, and a flaming image of love in a winter of mistrust. With each new candle that is lighted, may the flame of Christ's coming grow ever brighter so that this Christmas may see a fresh coming of the Lord of Light into each of our hearts and into our world. Let this holy season lead each of us to be Christ's light in the midst of darkness.

*(The first candle is lighted. This prayer may be repeated daily or weekly, lighting the appropriate number of candles on the Advent wreath)*

God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

Leader: May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

*(All make the Sign of the Cross to conclude)*

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**