

Advent Wreath Liturgy (Revised Nov. 2015)

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Christ

Compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

Note: Each Sunday has a line of Scripture and a prayer. You can decide who speaks each piece: celebrant, reader, congregation together; or a combination.

First Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: "Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE."

The candle is lit.

Scripture: "Psalm 33:20 – We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield."

Prayer: "Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen."

Second Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: "Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE."

The candles are lit.

Scripture: "Colossians 3:15 – Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

Prayer: "Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen."

Third Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: "Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY."

The candles are lit.

Scripture: “Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

Prayer: “Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.”

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: “Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.”

The candles are lit.

Scripture: “John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Prayer: “Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.”

Christmas Eve and Christmas Season (optional)

Celebrant: “Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle.”

The candles are lit.

Scripture: “Isaiah 9:6 – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Prayer: “O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.”