

## A WORSHIP GUIDE FOR ADVENT

The following form for prayer during Advent is intended to be a guide for family worship on a daily basis. Participation from the various members of the family is an important part of the service. The service begins by the lighting of the candle(s) on the Advent Wreath. One candle is lit during the first week, two the second week and so on. The Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve and throughout the Christmas Season. As the candles are lit, someone reads or tells the meaning of the candle. After a family member other than the designated leader, reads the scripture of the day, hymns are sung. The hymns that are listed help to convey the meaning behind the candle of the week, but it is good to include some family favorites. The service concludes with prayers and the extinguishing of the candles.

My family has used a variation of this guide since 1975 and it remains as one of the highlights of our year. We have found that right after supper works good for us, but you need to find a time when the family can come together to worship.

I pray that Advent will be a very blessed season for you.  
Fr. Joe ☩

## FOURTH WEEK

### Light four candles:

**Leader:** The fourth candle is the Angel's candle. It symbolizes the love which is rejoiced by the heavenly chorus of God's action to send his son, Jesus, into the world. [Pmas Eve]: The fifth candle is the Christ Candle. It represents the coming of Christ into the world as Man and Judge.

**Leader:** This is the day which the Lord has made.

**Family:** We will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Leader:** Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

**Family:** O come, let us worship Him.

### **The Scripture of the Day:**

Sun: Luke 2.13-14

Mon: Luke 1.26-33

Tue: Luke 1.35-35, 38

Wed: Luke 1.39-45

Thr: Luke 1.46-56

Fri: Luke 1.57-66

Sat: Luke 1.67-80

Pmas Eve: Luke 2.1-20

**Hymns:** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
Angels We Have Heard on High

**Leader:** Blessed God, we await the coming of your Son our Savior. In these last days of our waiting, bring us to a greater love for our family in order that our homes may be a happy and joyful place into which your Son, Jesus, may come. AMEN.

**Prayers or Intercession and thanksgiving are offered**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing:** May we, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at His second Advent be rewarded with unending love; and may the Lord bless and keep us and for all whom we pray, this day and forevermore. AMEN.

### Extinguish the candles:

## FIRST WEEK

### Light one candle:

**Leader:** This is the candle of Hope. It reminds us of the light of Hope that the prophets had in their expectation of a Messiah who would bring peace and love to the world.

**Leader:** O sing unto the Lord a new song.

**Family:** Sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

**Leader:** Sing unto the Lord, bless His name.

**Family:** Show forth His salvation from day to day.

**Leader:** For great is the Lord.

**Family:** And greatly to be praised.

### **The Scripture of the Day:**

Sun: John 1.9-14, 16-17

Mon: John 3.16-21

Tue: Isaiah 60.1-3

Wed: Psalm 43.3-5

Thr: Isaiah 58.6-9

Fri: 1 John 2.8-11

Sat: 1 John 3.1-2, 7-10

**Hymns:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are the light of all who love you. Help us to make ready for Christmas by preparing room for you in our lives. Bless our family with your presence, that we may have peace and joy. AMEN.

### **Prayers or Intercession and thanksgiving are offered The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing:** May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us and scatter the darkness from before our path: and may the Lord bless us and keep us and for all whom we pray, this day and forevermore. AMEN

### Extinguish the candle:

## SECOND WEEK

### Light two candles:

**Leader:** The second candle is the Annunciation candle. It reminds us of the message that the angel Gabriel gave Mary.

**Leader:** Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord?

**Family:** And who shall stand in his holy place?

**Leader:** He that hath clean hands.

**Family:** and he that hath a pure heart.

### **The Scripture of the Day:**

Sun: Luke 1.26-38

Mon: Matthew 1.18-21

Tue: Isaiah 40.1-5

Wed: Psalm 130

Thr: Micah 6.6-8

Fri: Isaiah 7.10-14

Sat: Isaiah 8.9-10

**Hymns:** Angels From The Realms of Glory  
Angels We Have Heard on High

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, pour your love into our hearts so that we may love more fully all those whom you love. Help us to be understanding of the needs of others, as you were understanding of the needs of all men and sent your Son, Jesus, to redeem us. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

### **Prayers or Intercession and thanksgiving are offered The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing:** May God, who sent his angel Gabriel to announce the birth of Jesus to Mary; prepare in us a place to receive His messages, and may He bless us and keep us and for all whom we pray, this day and forevermore. AMEN.

### Extinguish the candles:

## THIRD WEEK

### Light three candles:

**Leader:** The third candle is the Shepherd's candle. It symbolizes not only the coming of the shepherds to the manger in which Jesus was laid, but that they went out into the world and witnessed to others that Jesus was the "Anointed One of God." This candle helps us to realize that we are also called to be shepherds and to witness to others of Jesus' coming.

**Leader:** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good news.  
**Family:** That publishes peace.  
**Leader:** That publishes salvation.  
**Family:** Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

The Scripture of the Day:

Sun: Luke 2.8-12	Mon: Luke 2.13-15
Tue: Isaiah 9.6-7	Wed: Isaiah 11.1-6
Thr: Isaiah 40.10-11	Fri: Jeremiah 33.14-16
Sat: Malachi 3.1-5	

**Hymns:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks  
It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

**Leader:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us: and let your bountiful grace help us to share the joy that we might know in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

**Prayers or Intercession and thanksgiving are offered**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing:** May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **AMEN.**

**Extinguish the candles:**

## Sharing Advent with Each Other

### What is Advent?

Advent is the first season in the Church's liturgical year, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and running through Christmas Eve. It is a season of preparation for remembering the incarnation of God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth and for the fulfillment of His promise to return in power and great glory. This accounts for the tension one hears in the lessons on the Sundays in Advent with their emphasis on the end time and on God's promises for His people.

### What is an Advent Wreath?

An Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreens with four purple candles to represent a period of time for preparing and watching. They are placed around the edge of the Wreath with a white candle representing Christ in the center. Each purple candle represents a week in Advent. One candle is lit the first Sunday in Advent and an additional candle is lit each Sunday thereafter. Candles are burned to give light. The additional candles are lit to show that the light of Jesus' love and joy is shining brighter into the darkness of hatred and evil, the nearer we come to His birthday. On Christmas Eve, the white candle is lit to show that the light of Jesus Christ has come into the world.

