

Celebrating w/ Advent Wreath & Candles

Take turns reading the scripture passages and lighting the candles, with entire group singing the hymns and carols.

1 The Hope Candle of the Prophets

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. 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. *Isaiah 9:2,6 (NIV)*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight

2 The Way Candle of the Angels

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box." Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel, praising God and saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace among the people who please God." *Luke 2:10-14 (NCV)*

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 th' angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn king"
Christ, by highest heav'n adored Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come Offspring of the virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see Hail th' incarnate deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel.

3 The Joy Candle of the Shepherds

When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about." So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding box. When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It had been just as the angel had told them. *Luke 2:15-18,20 (NCV)*

How Great Our Joy

While by the sheep we watched at night Glad tidings brought an angel bright
How great our joy (great our joy) Joy, joy, joy (joy, joy, joy)
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high
There shall be born, so he did say In Bethlehem a Child today
There shall the Child lie in a stall This Child who shall redeem us all
This gift of God we'll cherish well That ever joy our hearts shall fill

4 The Peace Candle of the Magi

When Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:1b-2,11 (NCV)

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star
O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign
Frankincense to offer have I Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising Worship Him, God on high
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

5 The Christ the Savior (Christmas day)

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." *Luke 1:32-33 (NCV)*

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

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, wonders of His love

The Meaning of Advent

The Symbolism of the Candles and Sabbath Celebrations

Many churches and families use an advent wreath to aid in the celebration of Christmas. An advent wreath includes five candles. There are four candles, one for each Sunday leading to Christmas and a fifth candle for Christmas day. The four Sunday candles are usually tapers. There are variations in the coloring of the candles, often there are three purple and one pink candle. Occasionally, all of the candles are purple. The central candle is usually a large white pillar candle.

*The **purple represents repentance**. The **pink symbolizes joy**. The **central candle is called the Christ candle** and is not lit until Christmas day. When you light the candle it is customary to read a few verses of scripture that relate to meaning of the candle. Often the person who lights the candle recites a short statement of belief and faith as the candle is lit and then everyone unites in prayer.*

The First: Prophets Candle (The Candle of Prophecy/Hope)

The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Others consider the candle to be a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle.

The Fulfillment of Prophecy: 'Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'
Mathew 24:44

The Second: Angels Candle (The Candle of the Way)

The second candle shows that Christ is the Way. Christians are lost in sin and Christ is the Light sent into the world to show them the way out of darkness.

Suggested Verses to Read at the Lighting of the Second Candle

Leading Us to the Kingdom of Heaven: "In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come now." Matthew 3: 1-2

Jesus' Proclamation of His Purpose: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" John 14: 6

The Third: Shepherds Candle (The Candle of Joy)

The third candle indicates that the only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last.

Suggested Verses to Read at the Lighting of the Third Candle

Prophetic Verse: "and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." Isaiah 35: 10

Fulfillment of Prophecy: "Then as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olive, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'" Luke 19: 37-38

The Ultimate Completion of Prophecy: "And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'"

The Fourth: Magi's Candle (The Candle of Peace)

The fourth candle reminds that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world.

Suggested Verses to Read at the Lighting of the Fourth Candle

Prophetic Verse: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6-7

Fulfillment of Prophecy: "...the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1: 78b-79

"And when the parents brought in the Christ Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 'Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples; a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Luke 2: 27b-32

The Fifth Candle (The Christ Candle or Christmas Candle)

The fifth candle represents Christ himself who is born to save people from their sins. It is a celebration of the fulfillment of prophecy as represented in Christ's birth and hope in the final fulfillment when Christ comes again and Christians join him.

Suggested Verses to Read at the Lighting of the Fifth Candle

Prophetic Verse: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this." Isaiah 9:2-7

Fulfillment of Prophecy: "...a Savior has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

A Blessing: "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2