

# First Sunday of Advent



Advent is a season of waiting. It's a time to reflect on the Old Testament promises of the one who is to come. It's a reminder that we're part of a much bigger story. It's a season to anticipate the miracle that God would come, as a baby, to us.

For many people, the practice of lighting candles around an Advent wreath is a familiar part of worship in this season. Although this is a part of corporate worship in many congregations, it has become increasingly popular as part of worship at home. And this insert is a resource that may help in your home worship during this season as we make sure Jesus is at the center of our lives and this season.

This resource can be used with any candles, but will best be used with an Advent wreath. An Advent wreath has four outer candles. They can be purple, blue, white, red- the color doesn't matter. Some Advent candles have one different color (example: one rose colored candle and three purple ones.) The "different" candle is traditionally lit on the Third Sunday of Advent: historically a day of joy amid a very reverent and contemplative season. A candle in the center of the wreath, often called the "Christ Candle" is lit for the first time on Christmas Eve, and again through the Day of Epiphany. Traditionally this is a white candle – again, color is not important.

Lighting the Advent and Christ candles is a way of remembering – setting this apart as a season of holy waiting, and taking the opportunity to remember that God, who makes promises, is always faithful to fulfill them.

<http://www.fellowship.community/2015-advent-experience/>

## Lighting the First Advent Candle

### Prayer from the Psalms

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;  
according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

-Psalm 25: 4-7

### Light the First Advent Candle

Today we light the first candle of Advent. In this season when days grow shorter, when there is more darkness than light, we can feel that hope is equally fleeting. Yet God's Word assures us that light shines the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will never overcome it. So we light a candle to remind us that, in Jesus Christ, light has come into the world – not a fleeting or temporary light, but a living, breathing light. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

### Prayer

In this season of waiting for you, Lord,  
**we trust in your goodness,**  
**we rely on your mercy,**  
**we find shelter in your steadfast love.**

In this season of waiting for you, Lord,  
**we walk in your way,**  
**we follow your example of love,**  
**we keep our covenant promise.**

In this season of waiting for you, Lord,  
**forgive our sins,**  
**remember your love,**  
**Remember your people everywhere.**

In this season of waiting for you, Lord,  
**we wait for your salvation,**  
**we wait for your leading,**  
**we wait for your coming.**

Come, Lord Jesus, come. **Amen.**