

# Christmas Eve



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.

## Lighting the Christ Candle

### Prophecy from Isaiah Chapter 9

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness 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.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:2,6-7)

### Light the Christ Candle

As we light the Christ candle, we proclaim that, while once we walked in darkness, we do so no longer, for Light has come into the world, and in him there is no darkness at all:

because Christ has come, **hope has come.**  
because Christ has come, **peace has come.**  
because Christ has come, **joy has come.**  
because Christ has come, **love has come.**  
Christ has come. **Christ will come again!**

### Prayer

All glory to you, Great God,  
for the gift of your Son,  
whom you sent to save us.  
Like the singing angels,  
we praise your name and tell his story,  
so that everyone who hears our song  
may believe, rejoice, and bow down,  
receiving your saving love  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.