

# Second 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.

## Lighting the Second Advent Candle

### Canticle from Luke

And you, my child, "Prophet of the Highest,"  
will go ahead of the Master to prepare his ways,  
Present the offer of salvation to his people,  
the forgiveness of their sins.  
Through the heartfelt mercies of our God,  
God's Sunrise will break in upon us,  
Shining on those in the darkness,  
those sitting in the shadow of death,  
Then showing us the way, one foot at a time,  
down the path of peace. (Luke 1:76-79, The Message)

### Light the First and Second Advent Candles

"One foot at a time." That is the way of peace. Today we light the second Advent candle, claiming as we do so the promise of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

### Prayer

God of our salvation,  
you strengthen the winding ways of our heart  
and smooth the paths made rough by sin.  
Keep our conduct blameless,  
keep our hearts watchful,  
and bring to perfection  
the good you have begun in us.  
We ask this through him  
whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near;  
our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever, Amen.