

# ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

Advent is a time of waiting for the arrival of the baby Jesus when we are mindful of God's presence with us. This year Advent begins on November 29. One way to mark this time of waiting is by creating an Advent wreath. Gather four candles which represent each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. They do not have to be the same size or shape. Put them in a place they can stay during the whole season. Make a circle or a square with the candles and connect them with a garland of pine, ivy, or long ribbon to wrap around them. Use the scriptures and prayers below to mark each Sunday of Advent and light the candle(s) on your wreath. Invite your family and friends to share this experience with you.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Scripture:** Micah 5:2

Read Scripture reflectively, then light the first candle on your Advent wreath and say this prayer:

*O Holy God, we give you thanks that you rule the world with love and grace and that you hold everything in the palm of your hand. On this First Sunday of Advent, help us recognize, O God, that Jesus is born to be our one and true King. Help us make room for him to live in our hearts and our lives not only this season but all the days of our lives. In the name of Christ the King, we pray. Amen.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Scripture:** Matthew 1: 22-23

Read Scripture reflectively, then light three candles on your Advent wreath, and say this prayer:

*Loving God, we thank you that you became one of us and lived among us, experiencing the depth of human suffering and resilience of the human spirit. On this Third Sunday of Advent, we rejoice that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. In these challenging and strange times that we are living in, more than ever we long for your presence with us. Let us know that we are not alone and help us experience your love and peace. Amen.*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Scripture:** Matthew 1: 20b-21

Read Scripture reflectively, then light two candles on your Advent wreath, and say this prayer:

*Gracious God, we recognize that Jesus came to rescue us from evil and sin in this world and from the ways that we hurt others and ourselves. We acknowledge the need for your healing presence and our ultimate dependence on you. On this Second Sunday of Advent, open up our hearts to the power of the love and saving grace of our Savior and Redeemer and extend that grace to others in our lives. Amen.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Scripture:** John 1: 1-5

Read Scripture reflectively, then light all four candles on your Advent wreath, and say this prayer:

*God of hope, Jesus came to bring us the gift of light that shines in the midst of darkness and suffering. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, help us see the rays of your hope and light all around us. Help us not to hide your light but faithfully and with courage share that light with all those around us, but especially those who are suffering and oppressed, those who are weary and troubled. May your light guide us in every step of the way. Amen.*