

PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

You can make a simple wreath around which you can place 4 purple candles with a white or gold Christmas candle in the center...or just assemble the 5 candles. At some point, before a meal you can do this ritual alone or with your family. You can use the entire prayer or just the final prayer at every meal.

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT: **Waiting for Hope**

SCRIPTURE: "Stay awake, for you do not know the day or the hour when your Lord will appear."

LITANY:

Leader: Our response is "**O God, we place our hope in you.**"

God of our mothers and fathers. **R**

Leader: Give life to people who are weary; fill us with hope in You. **R**

Leader: Healer of souls, renew our joy in you. Turn to us again, O God of Hosts. **R**

Leader: Make your dwelling among us, Giver of Life; Hear our cries; we call out to you in hope. **R**

Leader: We anxiously hope for the joy you alone can bring us. **R**

Light the first Advent Candle

PRAYER

God of light, as we wait through the long winter nights for the birth of Christ, help us to keep watch. Help us to tend the tiny flame of hope. Make us alert until your gift of joy arrives. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT: **Preparing for Peace**

SCRIPTURE: "A voice cries out in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

LITANY:

Leader: Our response is "**O God, give us your peace.**"

We speak our hope in whispers; restore us again, O God of our salvation. **R**

Leader: In anticipation we prepare for your coming; Breathe life into us once again, that we may rejoice in you. **R**

Leader: Amidst rising hopes we turn to you, O God; Show us your steadfast love. **R**

Leader: Lord, let us hear your words to us in our time and place; Speak peace to your people. **R**

Leader: Faithful God, prepare our hearts to receive your joy; may peace and justice kiss in our time. **R**

Light the first and second Advent Candles

PRAYER

Faithful God, help us prepare our heart and home for the birth of the Savior. Show us how to make the path of our lives and our world peace-filled, so that we can joyfully receive the Messiah. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT: **The Promise of Joy**

SCRIPTURE: "I will rejoice in the Lord greatly; my whole being shall exalt in my God; for he has clothed me with the garment of salvation."

LITANY:

Leader: Our response is "**O God, give us joy.**"

Lord, through your prophets you have promised us your joy. You have declared good news to those who are oppressed. **R**

Leader: We continue to place our hope in your promise, O God, to bind up our broken hearts. **R**

Leader: We depend upon your promises, Giver of Joy; your promise of freedom to all captives. **R**

Leader: Lord, we wear our baptismal garment; help us to know that our only garment is You. **R**

Leader: We take comfort in your promises to us and await you with joyful and expectant hearts. **R**

Light the first, second and third Advent Candles

PRAYER

God of the Good News, the promise of your joy draws us to the manger. As we approach Jesus' birth, let us kneel and adore him. Let us bow down before the mystery of Emmanuel –God with us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT: Responding with Love

SCRIPTURE: Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

LITANY:

Leader: Our response is "**O God, we sing your praise.**"
Few will sing your praises forever, O God, for your constant love shown to your people! **R**

Leader: For the wonders you have done among us, we shout your name all day long. **R**

Leader: We sing about the abundant grace of your mercy shown to all generations! **R**

Leader: Our souls magnify you for the promise of joy and new life! **R**

Leader: We joyfully sing your praise for that gift of Love that came down to earth on Christmas. **R**

Light all four Advent Candles

PRAYER

God of the ages, like Mary, may our souls reflect your greatness and our spirits rejoice in you, for you have looked with favor on us and done marvelous things. May our lives be a response to the love you have shown us in Jesus, born of Mary, who lives forever and ever. Amen.

THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

Light all four Advent Candles, not the Christmas candle at this time.

SCRIPTURE: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I am bringing you good news of the great joy for all the people: today in the city of David is born a Savior, who is the Christ, the Lord."

LITANY:

Leader: Our response is "**Sing a new song to the Lord.**"
Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! We shall sing to God a new song! **R**

Leader: We remember the Lord's salvation every day! We sing of God's peace to all the earth! **R**

Leader: We declare the Lord's marvelous works to all the world! We rejoice at the coming of the Lord! **R**

Leader: Let us lift up the name of the Lord! We celebrate the fulfillment of the promise! **R**

Leader: Let us receive the Lord's goodness! We sing a song of Joy! **R**

Light the Christmas candle at this time

PRAYER

Loving Creator, we give thanks for the birth of joy in our lives at Christmas. Send us forth as messengers of this Good News of great joy for all the people we meet and for all the people around the globe. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

