

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER CELEBRATION – WEEK ONE - WAITING

Leader:



Advent means “a coming.” At the beginning of the Church year we stop to evaluate and accept our responsibility in God’s plan of creation and salvation. We try to grow in our understanding of who Christ is and what he means to us. It is the time when we prepare for a fuller life in Christ.

Let us begin our celebration by singing “O Come, O come Emmanuel.”

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel #440 CBW II (Verses 1 & 2)

Reader 1: (Invites all to come around the prayer table. On the prayer table are the items to be used to form the Advent Wreath. One person puts it together as the reader reads.)

Evergreen branches are used to make the Advent wreath. Evergreen trees stay green all year long. This reminds us that God never changes. God’s love for us is always the same.

The advent wreath is made in circular form to remind us that God has no beginning and no end. God loves us so much that he sent his son, Jesus, to live among us as one of us.

The four candles, three purple or blue, and one pink are used to symbolize the four weeks of Advent. The pink marks our joy as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth.

Reader 2: When we light the candle on the Advent wreath, we are reminded that Christ is the “Light of the World.” This gives us much joy. Let us pray:

Lord, we wait for the coming of you Son Jesus, into our hearts and our lives this Advent. Help us to always follow him as the light of the world.

All: We give you thanks and praise.

Reader 3: A reading from the Gospel of Luke
Luke 21.25 – 28

Leader: Let us assume that Jesus is coming again tomorrow. I invite you to reflect on the things you did in the last week. What are the things you

are proud of? What are the things you would like to change? How can you change them as we prepare for Christmas?

Reader 4: You, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand. That we be all that we are called to be we pray to you. Lord.

All: **Lord, help us to be all that you want us to be.**

Reader 5: You tell us Lord to be on our guard, to stay awake, because we do not know the time of your coming. As we journey through advent we that our thoughts, words, and actions be life giving for all whom we encounter, we pray to you, Lord.

All: **Lord, during this time of advent may all our thoughts, words and actions reflect our belief that we are all your children.**

Leader: **Let us sing verses 3 & 5 of O Come, O come Emmanuel.**