

Christmas Eve: We light the candle of Christ (White candle)

We light this candle as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. May the light guide us, as the star of Bethlehem led the wise men, and make us ready for the coming of Jesus. Loving God, we joyfully await the coming of our Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness. Pour out your blessing upon us as we light the candles of the wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is the Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Sing to the Lord a new song!

O come, all ye faithful

*O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!
O come, let us adore Him (x 3)
Christ the Lord*

Silent night

*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*

Hark! the herald angels sing

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

Joy to the world

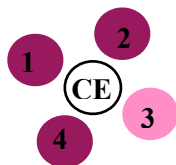
*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and
nature sing*



Advent Candle Lighting Ideas and Instructions

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We respond to ritual in significant ways. Research shows that rituals can help us respond to grief and process our feelings of helplessness or loss of control. Using the candles provided (or candles of your own), place the candles in a circle, with the white candle in the center. You will light a purple candle on Weeks 1, 2 and 4, the Pink candle on Week 3 and the white candle on Christmas eve.



Follow these three steps to light your Advent candles each week.

1. Start by singing.

To begin, sing a single verse of a Christmas carol.

Another great option I suggest for congregations or those sharing at-home worship is to sing “This Little Light of Mine.” Christmas song, but is easily modified by substituting the theme of the week for the word “mine.” For example, “This little light of Hope, I’m gonna let it shine!” or “This little light of Joy, we’re gonna let it shine.”

2. Light the candle and Pray.

Choose someone to light the candle. After the candle is lit, then say the prayer written for the week.

3. Close the ritual with singing.

Repeat the refrain of the song with which you began or choose a different Christmas song, secular or sacred.

BRIM: An Unexpected Gift

Andra Moran & Suzanne Castle,

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Week 1: We light the candle of Hope (Purple candle)

Holy One, we gather here around a wreath of candles hoping for your presence, knowing that for centuries, when people have put their trust in you, they have not been disappointed. The first candle of Advent burns brightly today with the light of hope. Those prophets of old knew what they were hoping for. Help us to know, too, what we are hoping for, deep within our hearts. We are hoping for the coming of Emmanuel. We are looking for someone to show us the way to peace and healing in our lives and our world. This month of Advent is our time of preparation. Let our hearts keep coming back to this: It is for You that we wait, and we wait in hope. Amen.

Week 2: We light the candle of Peace (Purple candle)

Jesus, heal our world with peace-- the true peace that comes from your presence. Help us to take an active role in being people of peace who are working for justice. Guide us to live and move in the world as peaceful people, furthering unity instead of division and striving to end oppression. As the light grows brighter around this advent wreath, so make our hearts brighter with faith and hope. Encourage us with your love as we prepare for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Week 3: We light the candle of Love (Pink candle)

God of life-giving love, you have given us the greatest gift of all: Love in human form! Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our Emmanuel. God *with* us. Love alive within us, Love to counsel and advice us, love to center and calm us, love that never fails. Let us live out your love this Christmas and every day of the year. Amen.

Week 4: We light the candle of Joy (Purple candle)

God of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, be with us today in these final days in the season of Advent as we look toward Christmas. Help us to feel the deep joy in our souls that comes from knowing you are always with us, no matter what. God, let your joy be our strength. Teach us to interrupt our own restless rhythms and open ourselves to the joy that the coming Christ child brings. Amen.