

Advent Guide

Four Corners Community Church
2016



Advent, which means "arrival" in Latin, is celebrated each of the four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time to prepare our hearts for a Christ-centered Christmas Day. Each week, we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us by choosing to come to earth as a human being. The Advent wreath gives us an opportunity to anticipate his birth through the lighting of candles, reading of the Word, and serving others. The wreath is a teaching tool, but more importantly, it is a time for family to grow together in faith and purpose.

To learn about the history of Advent and the Advent wreath: click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

While there are traditional styles for the wreath, we encourage you to create something unique as a family. Pinterest has a variety of possibilities (see some examples at left, and more [HERE](#)).

Each consecutive week, a candle is lit and a scripture read, until all four candles are lit. Some families add a fifth candle on Christmas Eve/Day. There is a sequence and significance to each of the candles. Read on to learn more!
(Source: Living Hope Lutheran Church, Omaha NE)

Nov 27th



First Candle

Prophecy Candle/
Candle of Hope

SIGNIFICANCE

We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God!

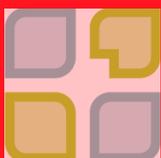
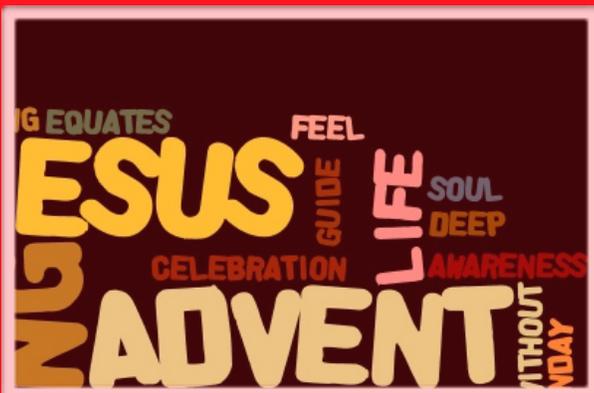
VERSE

"And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." ~ Romans 15:12-13

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Give someone hope this week. Write a letter to a soldier; volunteer at a food pantry or soup kitchen; pack food bags at Feed My Starving Children.

Dec 4th



Second Candle

Bethlehem Candle/
Candle of Preparation

SIGNIFICANCE

God kept his promise to provide a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome you, O God!

VERSE

"As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'A voice of one calling in the desert, prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'" ~ Luke 3:4-6

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Prepare in advance to bless others. Make food bags to hand out to the homeless; write an encouraging note for somebody and attach it to a candy cane; rake your neighbors leaves or shovel their driveway; bring a friend a meal; offer free babysitting to a couple or a single mother.

Dec 11th



Third Candle

Shepherd Candle/
Candle of Joy

SIGNIFICANCE

The shepherds received a message of joy!

VERSE

"...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" ~ Luke 2:7-15

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Bring unexpected joy to someone. Carol in your neighborhood; leave a gift on someone's doorstep.

Dec 18th



Fourth Candle

Angel Candle/
Candle of Love

SIGNIFICANCE

The angels announced the good news of a Savior! God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us!

VERSES

"...I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." ~ Luke 2:10b-11

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." ~ John 3:16-17

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Share love and good news in the ways you live and speak. Tell someone you love them; do something kind that places another's else needs above your own; remind a friend that Jesus cares for them.

Dec 25th



Fifth Candle

Christ Candle

SIGNIFICANCE

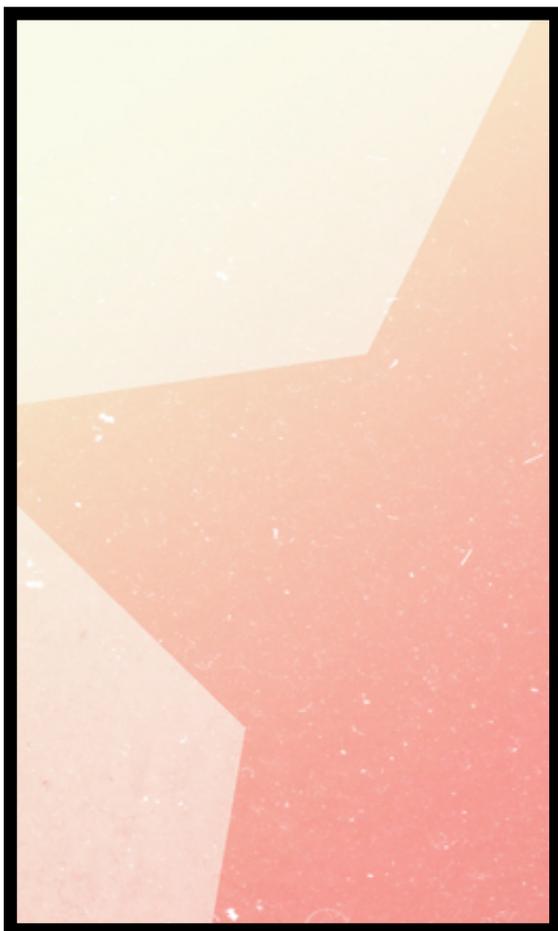
The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins. His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth!

VERSE

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" ~ John 1:29

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

On Christmas Day, spend time as a family discussing how your Advent preparations have helped you appreciate the season. Discuss ways you can be more focused during the "distracted season" next year; talk about what it felt like to bless others at Christmas; reflect on the ways you served others and how those acts coincided with your spiritual gifts; sing your favorite Christmas song together.



Looking for more ways to serve your community this Christmas season? Look into each of the following opportunities below that Four Corners Community Church and other organizations offer at this time of year. Remember, small acts of faithfulness made by communities of faith can make a big impact!

[CHRISTMAS MARKET](#)

[THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY: GIVE WATER](#)

[WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG](#)

[FUN CHRISTMAS SERVICE IDEAS](#)

[FAMILY HOLIDAY SERVICE PROJECTS](#)

[ONE SIMPLE WISH](#)

[12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT](#)

[SAMARITAN'S PURSE GIFT CATALOG](#)

[THE SHINE PROJECT](#)

We hope you enjoyed leaning into Advent with us this year! Special thanks to Lee Griffin and the Creative Team for their time and efforts in putting this resource booklet together.