



Blessing the Advent Wreath

Family Handout

Many families begin Advent with a short prayer service to bless the Advent wreath. On the first Sunday of Advent, you may wish to use the following prayer service to bless the wreath you have made.

To prepare, choose one person to lead the service and another to read aloud from Scripture. Open the Bible to Philippians 4:4–7. (*Other good Advent passages are Isaiah 11:1–4, Isaiah 61:1–2, Mark 1:1–8, and James 5:7–10.*)

Place the Advent wreath on a table and have your family gather around it. Lower the lights to create an appropriate atmosphere for the blessing. Light a single candle for the first week of Advent.

Leader: This week we begin the season of Advent, when the days grow short and darkness closes in. We are preparing to celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

(Pause a few moments and then pray the Sign of the Cross.)

Leader: Lord God, bless this wreath and bless us as well. May this wreath remind us of the hope and joy that Jesus brings to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4–7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

All: Amen.

(Pray the Lord's Prayer and continue with the prayer for the First Week of Advent.)

