

Advent Liturgy



Christchurch Evangelical Covenant
2020

What is Advent?

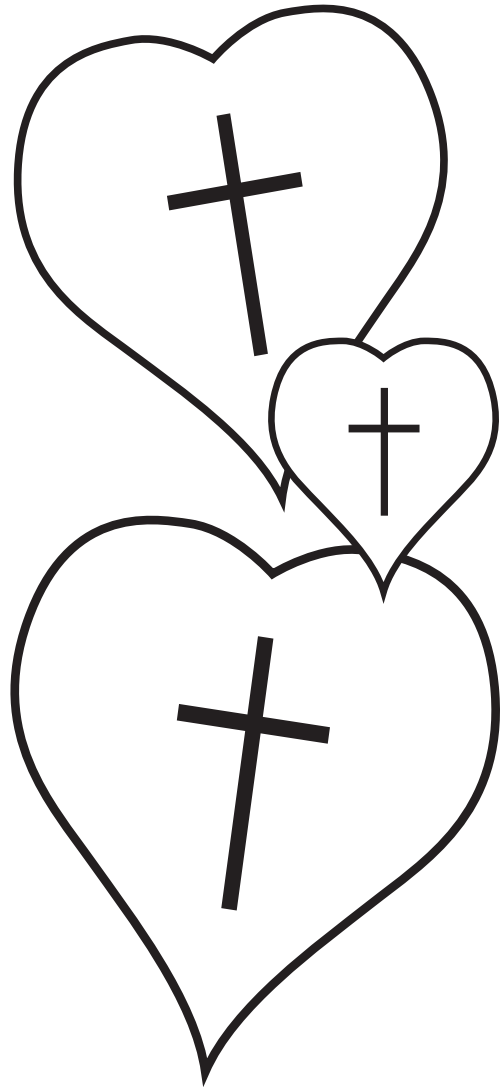
Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of Christmas. As Christians, we remember the coming of God as a baby, the coming of Christ into our lives, and the promise that Christ will come again.

As part of our Advent preparation we celebrate Christ's coming with an Advent wreath and by lighting its candles to remind us of the hope Christ brings to the world. The round shape of the wreath reminds us of the unbroken love of God. The green branches speak of new life, and the candles proclaim the light that came into the world with Jesus Christ.

Christchurch

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Hope



First Sunday in Advent: HOPE

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Scripture

Isaiah 40:31 Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Psalms 33:22 May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Why do we light one candle?

The first candle reminds us of the light of HOPE we have in Jesus Christ, whose birth the prophets foretold.

Prayer

Dear God, through your Spirit you spoke to prophets, and they spoke of the HOPE that is promised to us in the coming of Jesus. Shine your light in our lives, O God, so that we will always hope in you.

Peace



Second Sunday in Advent: PEACE

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Scripture

Luke 2:13-14 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."

Why do we light two candles?

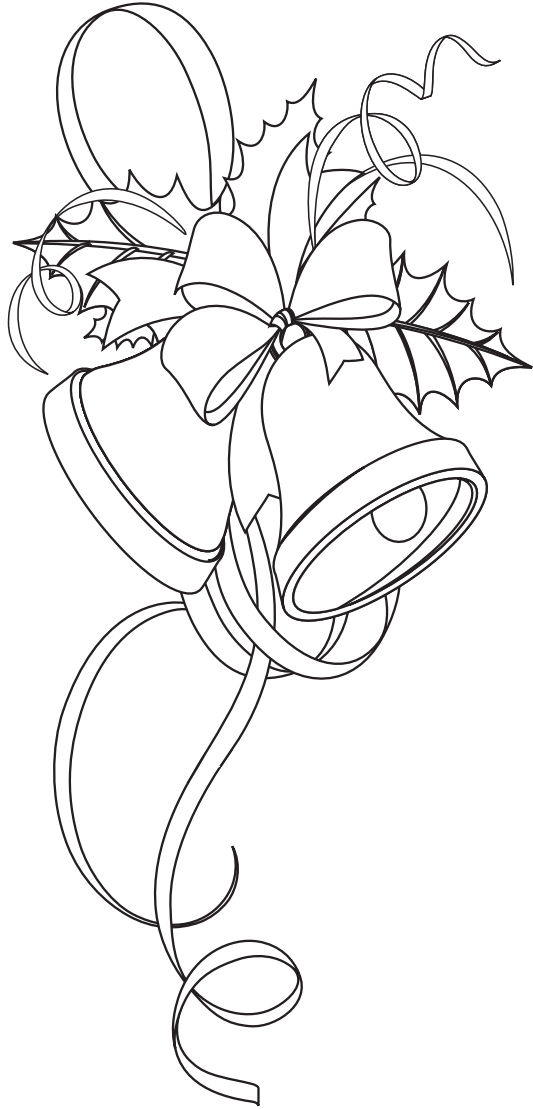
The first candle reminds us of the light of HOPE we have in Jesus Christ, whose birth the prophets foretold.

The second candle reminds us of the PEACE the angels proclaimed—peace we have with God because he sent his son, Jesus.

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for the PEACE that we can know because of Jesus' birth. May we know your peace in our lives and in the world.

Joy



Third Sunday in Advent: JOY

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Scripture

Luke 2:15-18 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." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Why do we light three candles?

The first candle reminds us of the light of HOPE we have in Jesus Christ, whose birth the prophets foretold.

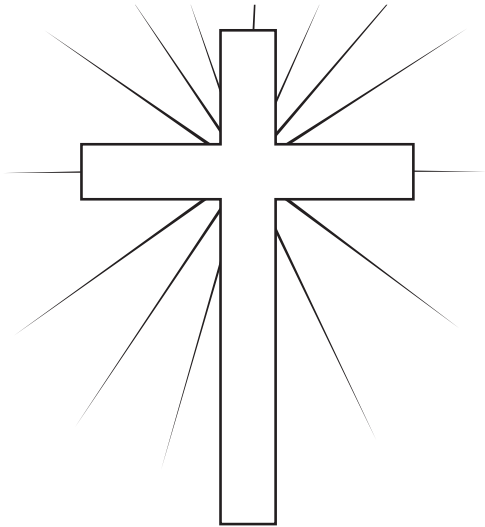
The second candle reminds us of the PEACE the angels proclaimed—peace we have with God because he sent his son, Jesus.

The third candle reminds us of the JOY the shepherds knew when they saw the baby Jesus and began sharing the good news.

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for the JOY that you bring us in the birth of Jesus. May the good news flow from our lives, bringing joy to the whole world.

Love



Fourth Sunday in Advent: LOVE

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Scripture

Matthew 1:24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Luke 2:19 Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Why do we light four candles?

The first candle reminds us of the light of HOPE we have in Jesus Christ, whose birth the prophets foretold.

The second candle reminds us of the PEACE the angels proclaimed—peace we have with God because he sent his son, Jesus.

The third candle reminds us of the JOY the shepherds knew when they saw the baby Jesus and began sharing the good news.

The fourth candle reminds us of the LOVE God showed by giving baby Jesus—to Mary and Joseph and to us all.

Prayer

Dear God, we praise you for your amazing LOVE! Jesus *is* our HOPE, our PEACE, and our JOY. We give our lives and hearts to Jesus today. Help us to follow him always!