



# Making time that matters

Advent is our chance to make sacred space within the typical busy-ness that accompanies the lead up to Christmas. Lighting a new candle each successive Sunday and saying a quiet prayer for hope, peace, joy or love helps us remember all that we are waiting for amidst the darkness.

Violet candles are often used in the wreath, as that is the traditional colour for Advent. The rose-coloured candle is for the third Sunday of Advent, representing joy. You can make your wreath as simple or as fancy as you like!

## Prayers for the weeks of Advent

### WEEK ONE: HOPE

Holy One, we light this candle to remember the hope we carry inside us; faith that God is present with us even in times of darkness.

May this hope bring courage to our hearts and comfort to those around us.

### WEEK TWO: PEACE

Eternal and unchanging One, we light this candle for peace, praying for peace in our homes, within our communities, and between nations. As we await the Prince of Peace, we ask for peace in our hearts.

On the first Sunday in Advent, light one candle and say a prayer for hope. On the second Sunday, relight the first candle as well as the second candle for peace. Continue on for each of the four Sundays in Advent, finally lighting the central candle on Christmas Eve as we welcome the light of Christ into the world.

### WEEK THREE: JOY

God of all, we light this candle in thanks for the deep and lasting joy that lightens our heart and draws us closer to each other. May we seek to be joyful in ourselves and to be a source of happiness for others.

### WEEK FOUR: LOVE

Creator, as we light this candle we await the One who taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and to love God above all.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

With gladness and rejoicing we light this candle to celebrate the One who fills our hearts with hope, peace, joy and love. Gloria in excelsis Deo!