



## FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT

Light four candles and say:

*“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*

A child asks: “Why do we light four candles?”

A parent responds: *“The first candle is a reminder of the light of hope of the prophets. The second candle is a symbol of the light and warmth Joseph and Mary found in the stable. The third candle reminds us of the great light and joy which surrounded the shepherds at the announcement of Jesus’ birth. The fourth candle reminds us of the light of the stars in the sky which guided the wisemen to Jesus and which keeps watch over us by night.”*

Read the story of the birth of Jesus as Matthew wrote it. (Matthew 1:18-2:12)

Sing or listen to WE THREE KINGS

### PRAY

*“O God, when we think of Christmas we think of love and lights and gifts and happy times. But, most of all, we think of Jesus, born in a manger and grown up as a loving teacher. Help us to live the way Jesus teaches us so that we may show the real meaning of Christmas. Amen.”*

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Light all four candles, plus a special white  
“Christ Candle” as the family says together:

*“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world, he who follows me ‘will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*

Tell the Christmas story together

### SING

#### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and  
triumphant,  
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of  
angels!  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’ n  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Dear Parent(s)

One of the key ways children grow in faith is by participating in faith moments with their parents. We want to help provide such moments during this busy season by giving you this brochure to use, as you use the Advent wreath. It would be fun to have your children be a part of going with you to buy the Advent candles: three blue/purple and one pink are the traditional colors. Blue/Purple represents the coming of the King and pink stands for joy.

Advent means coming. May God bless you as you light the candles together and share the story of Jesus’ coming.





### FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

Light one blue/purple candle and say:

*“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*

A child asks: *“Why do we light one candle?”*

A parent responds: *“This candle reminds us of the hope that the people had in one who would bring peace and love to the world.”*

Read what the prophets hoped for when they thought and prayed about what God would do for his people.

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of darkness a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9:2)*

*“The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold: a young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel (which means ‘God with us’).” (Isaiah 7:14)*

Sing or listen to O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

#### PRAY

*“Dear God, our world is in darkness. We need the light of peace and love to shine in our world. Help us to prepare our lives and our homes to receive the One who said, ‘I am the light of the world’. We pray in the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.”*



### SECOND WEEK IN ADVENT

Light two blue/purple candles and say:

*“Jesus said, I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

A child asks: *“Why do we light two candles?”*

A parent responds: *“The first candle reminds us of the light of hope of the prophets. The second candle reminds us of the dark night when Joseph and Mary found light and warmth in the stable.”*

Read about the search for a place for Joseph and Mary to spend the night .. Luke 2:1-7.

Sing or listen to O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

#### PRAY

*“Dear God, help us to have room in our hearts and our homes for other persons who need us. We thank you for friends and strangers who have received us when we were lonely or afraid or tired. May we be ready to receive the love God offers us In Jesus. We pray in the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.”*



### THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

Light two blue/purple candles and one pink candle and say:

*“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk In darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*

A child asks: *“Why do we light three candles?”*

A parent responds: *“The first candle is a reminder of the light of hope of the prophets. The second candle is a symbol of the light and warmth Joseph and Mary found in the stable. The third candle reminds us of the great light and joy which surrounded the shepherds at the announcement of Jesus’ birth.”*

Read the story of the Shepherd’s search for the newborn Jesus. Luke 2:8-20.

Sing or listen to THE FIRST NOEL

#### PRAY

*“Dear God, we thank you for your gift of Jesus to the whole world. As the shepherds found Jesus In a manger, may we find Jesus in the love and joy that we share together. Help us, O God, to love one another. Help us to do our share to bring happiness, goodness and peace to the world. Amen.”*