

Advent Wreath



St Edmund the King
Northwood Hills

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has three purple candles, reflecting the liturgical colour for Advent, with a pink candle for the Third Sunday, when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white or gold one on Christmas Day.

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle. The scheme that accords best with the Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary is:

Advent 1 The Patriarchs

Advent 2 The Prophets

Advent 3 John the Baptist

Advent 4 The Virgin Mary

Christmas Day The Christ

Each of the four Sundays then reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. 'The Patriarchs' can naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

Advent 1 – the Advent hope

Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing:

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,
changed for gladness on that Day.

Advent 2 – the prophets

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The second candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing:

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness
on that Day.

Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message - challenged, shaken –
hearts awaken:
God is near!

Advent 3 – John the Baptist

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The third candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing:

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness
on that Day.

John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready, for the Lord.'

Advent 4 – Mary

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'

I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to his word.

The fourth candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing:

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness,
on that Day.

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
- cross and glory; empty tomb!



ADVENT