

CONSIDER A FAMILY ADVENT WREATH!!!

Advent is a time of reflection and anticipation in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming". The advent season symbolizes both the waiting for the birth of Christ and his return. A popular tradition during Advent is the advent wreath made of evergreen to symbolize everlasting life in the midst of winter and a circle to remind us of both God's unending love and the eternal life offered through Jesus Christ.

The Advent wreath has four candles - one is lit each Sunday of the four weeks of Advent. Each candle represents a new focus and time of reflection. The first week of Advent is the candle of hope. Also known as the "prophecy candle", it is in this first week of Advent that we remember Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah. The color of the candle is purple to symbolize the royalty of Jesus Christ.

Use these Scriptures and prayer for the first week of Advent to reflect on the promises God and the coming baby who is would be King.

Advent Week One Scripture for Reflection

Isaiah 11:1, Matthew 1:22, Matthew 2:6, Micah 5:2, Luke 2:8, Isaiah 7:14, John 1:14, Romans 6:23, Jeremiah 29:11, Acts 5:31, 2 Corinthians 9:15, Acts 5:31

Advent Week One Prayer: A Prayer for Hope

Heavenly Father,

Advent is a time for remembering and reflecting on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

