

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATHS

This Prayer Service can be used as a school assembly at which all of the Advent wreaths in the school can be blessed or in individual classrooms. If your chaplain is available, you might invite him to bless the wreath/s using holy water.

You Will Need

- Children to carry the Advent wreath/s
- Table/s on which to place the Advent wreaths
- Four A3 sized Signs
 - Love
 - Peace
 - Joy
 - Hope
- Four Children, one to hold each sign
- Six Readers

LEADER: We begin our prayer today by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen

LEADER: This week we begin to celebrate the season of Advent. The four weeks of Advent help us to get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We have made Advent wreaths for our classroom/s and our school to remind us that Jesus comes to bring light to the darkness, the light of God's love for each one of us.

Students carry in and place the advent wreaths in the designated place

READER 1: The Advent Wreath is in the shape of a circle because just like a circle God's love has no beginning and no end.

READER 2: We used evergreen leaves to make our wreath because just like these leaves that stay green all through the year, God's love for us is everlasting.

LEADER: Lord our God, bless this wreath and bless all of us gathered here today. May this wreath help us to focus on the coming of Jesus as we journey through Advent. As we light the candles each week may we be reminded of the love, peace, joy and hope that Jesus brings into the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN

STUDENT 1 HOLDS UP THE FIRST SIGN WITH WORD HOPE

READER 3: Today we light the first purple candle. This candle reminds us that Jesus is our hope that the light will come and conquer the darkness



LIGHT THE FIRST PURPLE CANDLE

LEADER: Let us thank God for Jesus, the light of the world

ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

STUDENT 2 HOLDS UP THE SECOND SIGN WITH WORD PEACE

READER 4: Next week, we will light the first and the second purple candles. The second purple candle represents the gift of peace that Jesus brings to our world.

LEADER: Our world needs the peace that only Jesus can bring. Let us pray for peace in the world and for all of us as we say:

ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...*

STUDENT 3 HOLDS UP THE THIRD SIGN WITH WORD JOY

READER 5: In the third week of Advent, we will light three candles two purple and one pink. The pink or rose-colored candle is for joy. Joy because we know that that Jesus will soon be here.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, help us to wait in joyful hope for your coming at Christmas. Together we pray...

ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...*

STUDENT 4 HOLDS UP THE FOURTH SIGN WITH WORD LOVE

Reader 6: As our Advent journey comes to an end we will light all four candles. This final candle represents love. God loves us so much that he gives us the gift of Jesus at Christmas. Jesus came to show us how to live and love like children of God.

LEADER: We thank God for the gift of Jesus as we pray...

ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...*

LEADER: Our Advent journey begins today and we pray that it will be a time filled with hope, peace, joy and love as we wait for the coming of the best gift of all, the gift of Jesus.

Let us bless the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Amen