

**BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES****Rubrics**

1. *The lighting of Advent candles typically involves a four-week cycle where one candle is lit each week, representing different themes, with a fifth candle lit on or Eve of Christmas.*
2. *Common themes are hope, peace, joy, and love, though the specific colours and order can vary by tradition.*
3. *The first two Advent and the Last Advent candles are purple in colour, and the 3rd Sunday Advent candle is Pink. The Christ Candle is in White.*
4. *A white candle called the Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to signify that Jesus Christ has been born, a fulfilment of the season.*
5. *The four-week cycle is as follows.*
  - a. **Hope:** *The first week is focused on the hope that Christ brings to the world. (God's promise)*
  - b. **Peace:** *The second week focuses on the peace Christ offers. (Christ as the Prince of Peace)*
  - c. **Joy:** *The third week celebrates the joy of Christ's arrival. (the coming Saviour)*
  - d. **Love:** *The final week centres on the theme of love that is central to the Christmas story. (God's gift of redemption)*
6. *The blessing of the Advent wreath and candles is done at the beginning of the service after the procession hymn. The Celebrant will go to where the wreath is placed and begin the blessing of the wreath.*
7. *The wreath can be decorated with local leaves and flowers with Christmas colours to give it a more contemporary look.*
8. *After the lighting of the candle, a short chorus of song may be sung, followed by the order of service.*

**Prayer for the Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Lord our God,

Bless this wreath and those who gather around it.

As we light its candles,

May they be a sign of your promises fulfilled in Christ,

The Light of the World.

Kindle within us the fire of your love,

that we may be lights shining in the darkness.

Prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, so that when

He appears,

He may find us watching and joyful in His service.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**All: Amen.**

**BLESSING OF THE LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES**

Celebrant: Dear friends, the church now enters the season of Advent, a time when we prepare for the commemoration of the coming of the Messiah in flesh and when he comes at the end of time. For Anglicans, Advent is a time to reflect, repent, and renew hope in Christ's promises.

In front of us is the Advent wreath and candles, a symbol that challenges us to prepare in the midst of all the confusing values of our times. As the lights of this crown increase, may our hearts become lighted lamps to a world that is caught up in the darkness of sin.

Celebrant: May this wreath remind us that Christ comes to bring light into our darkness and hope into our world.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**WEEK 1: LIGHT THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. The Sunday in which we recall the HOPE we have in Christ. Hope is to be able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

Today, we light the candle of hope as a prayer, and a reminder that darkness will not win, and to be alert and watch for His return.

May we now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to light the first candle- Candle of hope.

*Sponsor:* The Lord brings the light of HOPE to his people that no darkness or fear or worry can take away.

*Sponsor:* Let us walk in the light of HOPE.

*The person lights the candle from the paschal candle and lights the first purple candle (Light the candle of HOPE).*

**WEEK 2: LIGHT THE CANDLE OF PEACE**

*Celebrant:* Last Sunday, we lit the first candle which is the candle of HOPE. The second candle of Advent is the candle of PEACE. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child. May we now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to please light the second candle, the candle of PEACE.

*Sponsor:* The Lord brings the light of PEACE to his people, a light that no darkness or fear or worry can take away.

*Sponsor:* Let us walk in the light of PEACE

*(Light the candle of PEACE).*

**WEEK 3: LIGHT THE CANDLE OF JOY**

Celebrant: Last Sunday, the candle of PEACE was lighted and the previous Sunday, the candle of HOPE, to remind us that Christ will come again to bring to the world everlasting peace. Today, we light the candle of joy to remind us of the great joy in our expectation for the birth of Jesus, our Messiah. May we now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to please light the third candle, the candle of JOY.

Sponsor: The Lord brings the light of Joy to his people; a light that no darkness or fear or worry can take away.

Sponsor: Let us walk in the light of JOY

*(Light the candle of JOY).*

**WEEK 4: LIGHT THE CANDLE OF LOVE**

Celebrant: The previous Sundays, we lit the candles of HOPE, PEACE and JOY as we remember everlasting peace and joy. We light the candle of LOVE today to remind us how God's perfect love is found in Jesus. May we now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to please light the fourth candle, the candle of LOVE.

Sponsor: The Lord brings the light of LOVE to his people; a light that no darkness, or fear, or anxiety can extinguish.

Sponsor: Let us walk in the light of LOVE.

*(Light the candle of Love).*

**CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY-LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Celebrant: O holy Child of Bethlehem / Descend to us, we pray / Cast out our sin and enter in / Be born to us today / We hear the Christmas angels / The great glad tidings tell / O come to us, abide with us / Our Lord Emmanuel (*sung or said*)

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest. Amen Celebrant: Let us celebrate the Christ candle that brings HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE into the World

*(Light the candle of Love).*

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Written by Bishop Charles Samuel