



Advent School Resource Booklet 2023



INTRODUCTION

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word “Adventus” which means “coming”. During the four weeks of Advent, we are preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. In the readings at Mass, we are asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Preparations are important during Advent. We prepare at home, in school and at the church. But the most important preparation is the preparation of our hearts.

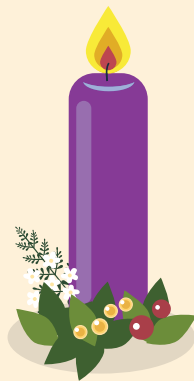
Leader: Father in Heaven, we stand together in a circle of your light, peace, and hope. Bless us as we approach this sacred season of Advent. We pray this in the name of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate with love and joy.

All: Amen.



WEEK 1

Light the first purple candle. This candle represents **HOPE**.



Leader: We light this first Advent candle in remembrance of the prophets who waited with hope for Jesus's birth.

Reader 1: Lord, when things get dark, help us to hope in you and trust in your way.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 2: May the light of Christ bring hope into a world of poverty and need. Come, Lord Jesus, to bring good news to children who are poor and all who wait in need.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 3: Lord Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places. Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely. Shine hope into our hearts we pray.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 4: The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:1-3)

Leader: Let us close our eyes and say a quiet prayer to the Lord.

WEEK 2

Light the first and second purple candles.

The second candle represents **PEACE**.

Leader: We light this second Advent candle and remember John the Baptist, who prepared the people for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Reader 1: Lord, you are peace even when there is hatred. Help us to forgive like you when we are hurt or wounded.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 2: May the Prince of Peace come into our hearts and lead us in the ways of peace. Lord, this Advent, bring peace into our hearts.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 3: Lord Jesus, help us to bear your peace into the world, for the safety and protection of children, those in need and all who are vulnerable.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 4: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.” For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:6-9)

Leader: Let us close our eyes and say a quiet prayer to the Lord.



WEEK 3

Light the first two purple candles and the pink candle. The pink candle represents **JOY**.

Leader: We light this third Advent candle remembering the shepherds' joy at being the first to adore Jesus. Father, help us also rejoice in the Christmas message: a Savior was born to us, Christ, the Lord.

Reader 1: Lord Jesus, you are joy even in the saddest of times. Fill us with joy when we are upset or grieving.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 2: May the light of Christ shine joy into our hearts this Advent.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 3: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 4: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; ever-lasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)

Leader: Let us close our eyes and say a quiet prayer to the Lord.



WEEK 4

Light the three purple candles and the pink candle.

The fourth candle (purple) represents **LOVE**.

Leader: We light this fourth Advent candle and remember the strength and faith of Mary, who heard God's voice and said 'Yes'.



Reader 1: Lord, this Advent, help us to dispel darkness and increase the light and love in our lives as we prepare for Christmas.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 2: May we open our hearts to the warmth of Christ's light and love. Bless our school and our families with your love.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 3: Lord Jesus, you are with us always, even when we are afraid. Bring love into our hearts when we are scared. Help those who are lonely.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reader 4: Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." (Matt. 11:4-5)

Leader: Let us close our eyes and say a quiet prayer to the Lord.

CHRISTMAS DAY:



Light all the coloured candles and the white candle. The **WHITE** candle represents Jesus.

Leader (at home): We remember how Christ's light entered the world at Christmas. The colour white represents purity and holiness. Lord Jesus, you are our sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. The light of the Christ candle burns brightly with the love that came into our world this holy Christmas night.

Christmas Reading: "The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'" (Luke 2:10-14)



HYMN: Light the Advent Candle

1.

Light the Advent candle, one
Now the waiting has begun
We have started on our way
Time to think of Christmas day.

CHORUS:

Candle, candle, burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle, burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

2.

Light the Advent candle, two
Think of the humble shepherds, who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child on Christmas night.

CHORUS

3.

Light the Advent candle, three
Think of heavenly harmony
Angels singing “peace on earth”
At the blessed Saviour’s birth.

CHORUS



4.

Light the Advent candle, four
Think of joy forever more
Christ – child in a stable born
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

CHORUS

5.

Light the Christmas candle, now
Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow
Birthday candles for the King
Let the Alleluias ring.

CHORUS



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