

Advent Resource for Schools 2025

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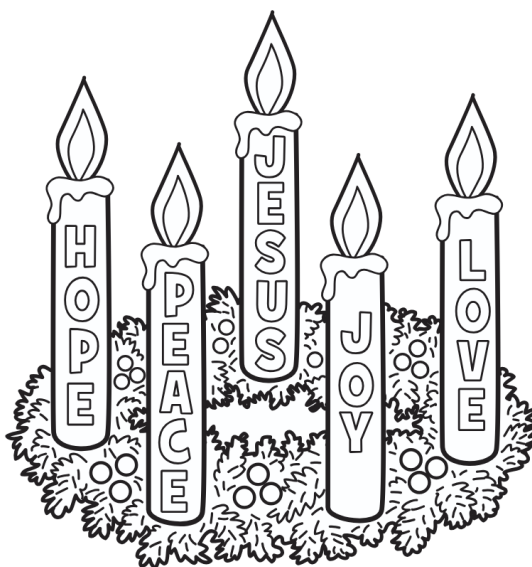
 Advent Prayer Service

 Advent Word Search

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 Colouring Competition



What Each Candle on the Advent Wreath Represents

The four coloured candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they symbolize hope, peace, joy and love. The fifth candle is white and is lit on Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus. The circular shape of the wreath symbolises eternity and the everlasting love of God.

Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)

Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)

Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd’s Candle (pink)

Advent week 4 – Love: Angel’s Candle (purple)

Christmas Day —Birth of Jesus (white)

First Week of Advent: Hope



Reader 1: Yesterday marked the first Sunday of Advent this year, which was 30th November. This week we reflect on our hope for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Child lights the first purple candle.

Reader 2: Luke in his Gospel tells us: “The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.’” (Luke 1: 26-28, 46-50)

Reader 3: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world, thank you for Mary’s song of praise and her example of faith and love, which brought the world a gift of hope. Now, let us respond to our prayers of hope with the response “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.

Reader 4: 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 5: 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 6: Lord, help us to remember those who are poor and hungry this Advent, who, like you, were not born into warm safe places.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Together, we pray: Hail Mary, full of grace...

Second Week of Advent: Peace



Reader 1: Yesterday marked the second Sunday of Advent this year, which was 7th December. This week we reflect on our wish for peace in our lives and throughout the world.

Child lights the first and second purple candles.

Reader 2: Luke in his Gospel tells us: “In those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth to the city of David called Bethlehem. He was with Mary, his espoused wife, who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2: 1-7)

Reader 3: Lord, we thank you for Mary and Joseph’s example of following and trusting you. Now, let us respond to our prayers for peace with the response “Lord, graciously hear us”.

Reader 4: Let us pray for peace in the world. Let us especially remember countries where there is war. We pray that peace will prevail. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 5: We pray for our leaders in the church during Advent. We remember how the purple vestments signify the coming of Baby Jesus. Lord, give our pope, bishops and priests strength and peace. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 6: We pray for children around the world who are not looking forward to Christmas because of war, famine and poverty. May we always remember to pray for them. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us. Together, we pray: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

Third Week of Advent: Joy



Reader 1: Yesterday marked the third Sunday of Advent this year, which was 14th December. This week we reflect on how joyful we feel knowing that Jesus was born for us, just as the shepherds felt joy upon seeing the angel and Baby Jesus.

Child lights two purple candles and the pink candle.

Reader 2: Luke tells us in his gospel: “The angel said to the shepherds, ‘Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord’.” (Luke 2: 8-20)

Reader 3: Lord Jesus, thank you for the message of the shepherds, that in you we do not need to be afraid, but instead can find strength. Now, let us respond to our prayers of joy with the response “Lord, graciously hear us”.

Reader 4: We pray for those who have worked to make our school and church bright and beautiful during this season of Advent. May they enjoy the Christmas season that follows. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

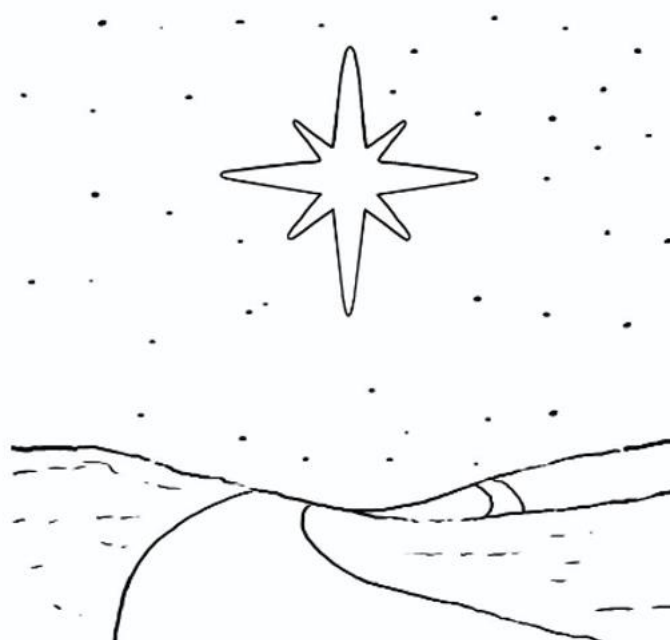
Reader 5: We pray for people who are homeless during this season of Advent. May we always show them warmth and light. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 6: We think of the shepherds finding joy on the hillside. We pray for those who take care of the earth, the animals and all of God’s creation. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us. Together, we pray: Glory be to the Father...

Fourth Week of Advent: Love



Reader 1: Yesterday marked the fourth Sunday of Advent this year, which was 21st December. This week we reflect on the love shown for us by God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Child lights two purple candles, the pink candle and the third purple candle.

Reader 2: Matthew in his Gospel tells us: “Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking ‘Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising and have come to pay Him homage’.” (Matthew 2: 1-12)

Reader 3: Lord, the Wise Men saw a new star and chose to follow it. After a long journey, it led them to Jesus. Today we often ‘follow’ people online, but the Wise Men followed with action, trust and love. Their journey shows us how to follow God with faith. Now, let us respond to our prayers of love with the response “Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts”.

Reader 4: God our Father, we pray for Pope Leo XIV and the leaders of the Church, that they will always be guided by your love.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts.

Reader 5: Jesus, our friend and brother, we ask you to bless all the people who are waiting to celebrate your birthday. Help us to spend these days of waiting by showing love and kindness to everyone.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts.

Reader 6: God, your love for us meant that you would give us your own Son. Help us to realise that you love us so much. We look forward to showing your love by being with you on Christmas Day.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts. Together, we pray: Hail Mary, full of grace...

Christmas Day: Jesus is Born



On Christmas Day we light the white candle.

Reader 1: Jesus, today we light a white candle, to celebrate your birthday.

Reader 2: Thank you for coming into our lives.

Reader 3: Help us to live like you and to be friends to everyone we meet.

Reader 4: We end our prayer service by saying the Mission Together Prayer.

Our Mission Prayer

Lord,
May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of your love
Now and forever.
Amen.



Advent Word Search

A G F M I N U L S T X N F M E
G V H H A Z E M O M T G Y R O
M K G N E R Q Q F V G C Q J O
A L U S Q L Y O X D E S Q E B
V O A F R H P R A Y E R E S H
N O R V P D C B Y Y K M P U A
P A T H V M C L B J H N A S D
P Q Z Z F P R H Y F O Q X R V
A I O A I X A S R O H S I M E
K N N Q R W H T G I N D E U N
N Z G Q V E P A N Z S Y T P T
D Q O E T V T R X L B T M Z H
Z N F V L P U H G N T A M B Z
I H B R G S V T O P J L E A B
D T T H K X L U D X G F I P S

Find these words:

ADVENT

ANGELS

CHRISTMAS

GOD

JESUS

JOSEPH

LOVE

MARY

NAZARETH

PRAYER

STAR

Extension Activity:

Write a sentence or draw a picture for each word in your Religion/Grow in Love copy.



ADVENT WORD SCRAMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS



Ξ I S W : _____

D H Ξ O R : _____

H Ξ S P Ξ : _____

L B Ξ B I : _____

Ξ D V A T N : _____

A Ξ < Ξ P : _____

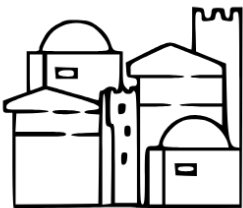
N N I : _____

H H Ξ M L E T B : _____

Ξ S J U S : _____

V A R O I S : _____

I F H A T : _____



WORD BANK

ADVENT
BETHLEHEM
BIBLE
FAITH

HEROD
INN
JESUS
PEACE

SAVIOR
SHEEP
WISE