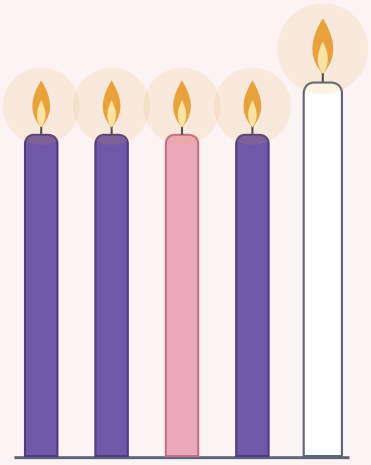
PRAYERS

Advent prayers

Prayers for the Advent wreath, for families, for a church service and for grief, with two blessings.



THE PRAYERS

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Scripture from the Berean Standard Bible, dedicated to the public domain. Prayers by Church Posting. Any church may copy them.

A short Advent prayer

ALL PRAY **Father, your grace appeared when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we wait for him to appear in glory. Keep our hearts fixed on him, teach us to repent and to hope, and make us ready to meet him. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

First Sunday of Advent, November 29: hope

Read Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, then pray.

ALL PRAY **Father, you promised a child who would carry the government on his shoulders, and his rule and peace will have no end. That child is Jesus, the King. Fix our hope on him this week. Amen.**

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6: peace

Read Micah 5:2a, 4-5a, then pray.

ALL PRAY **Lord Jesus, through Micah the Father promised a shepherd from little Bethlehem. You are that Shepherd and our peace. Settle our quarrels, keep us in your care, and come again soon. Amen.**

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13: joy

Read Luke 2:8-14, then pray.

ALL PRAY **Father, your angel told the shepherds not to be afraid, for a Savior was born in the city of David, Christ the Lord. Take away our fears this week, and fill this house with joy and praise to you. Amen.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20: love

Read 1 John 4:9-10, then pray.

ALL PRAY **Father, you showed your love when you sent your Son to bear our sins. Since you so loved us, give us love for one another, for the people in this house and for anyone we find hard to love. Amen.**

Christmas Eve, December 24: the Christ candle

Read John 1:1-5, 14, then pray.

ALL PRAY **Lord Jesus, you are the Word who was with God in the beginning, and you became flesh and lived among us. In you is life, and your life is the light of men. Shine in this house tonight. Amen.**

Advent prayer for dinner

PRAYER Father, thank you for the food on this table and for the people around it. You have shown us grace in Jesus Christ, and you teach us to wait for the day he appears in glory. Keep us patient and kind this week. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Advent prayer with children at the wreath

PRAYER Father, we light this candle because you promised light to people walking in darkness. Thank you for Jesus, the light of the world. Help us watch for him and wait with glad hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Advent prayer for a child to pray

ALL PRAY **Jesus, you were born in Bethlehem, and the angel said you are Christ the Lord. Thank you for being born for me. Help me watch for the day you come back, and help me be kind at home. Amen.**

Advent bedtime prayer

PRAYER Father, the night is here and we are tired. You alone make us dwell in safety. Thank you that Jesus came, and that he will come again. Keep us ready for him, and wake us to praise you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Advent opening prayer

PRAYER Father, you sent your Son into the world at the time you chose, and you have promised that he will return in glory. In these weeks of waiting, give us ears for your Word and hearts for your Spirit. Teach this congregation to hope in Christ alone. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent prayer of confession

ALL PRAY **Father, you told us to wake from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. We have slept through your warnings and kept the deeds of darkness. Forgive us. Clothe us with the Lord Jesus Christ, and keep us awake for the day he comes. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Advent pastoral prayer

PRAYER

Father, you spoke through Isaiah of a voice calling your people to prepare the way for the LORD. You kept that word when John prepared the way for Jesus, your Son, born in Bethlehem. We thank you for the Savior who came, and for your promise that he will come again. Forgive us for filling these weeks with errands and giving little time to prayer and to your Word. Clear a road for your Son in our lives. Bless this congregation as we wait for Christ. Strengthen those who are sick, comfort those who mourn, and give courage to anyone who has lost work or a home. Keep our children watching for Christ. Make us ready to welcome the stranger and to give to the poor. Keep us faithful until he comes. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent prayer before the sermon

PRAYER

Father, your Word stands forever, and it is living and active. Open our ears to the reading and the preaching today. As Jesus opened the Scriptures on the road to Emmaus, let our hearts burn within us, and make us ready for the coming of your Son. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent offering prayer

PRAYER

Father, you sent your Son, who was rich and for our sake became poor, so that we might become rich. Receive these gifts as our thanks, and use them for your Son's work in this place and in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent closing prayer

PRAYER

Father, Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many, and he will appear a second time to save those who wait for him. Send us home in that hope. Keep us watching, keep us faithful, and bring us to the day when every eye sees him. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent prayer for grief

PRAYER

Father, this December is heavy. The chair at our table is empty, and the songs do not reach us. You know our grief, and your Spirit prays for us when we have no words. You raised Jesus from the dead, and you will raise us. You have promised that you will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and that there will be no more death. Keep us in your hand until Jesus comes again and makes all things new. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent blessing from Romans 15

ROMANS 15:13

> 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Advent blessing from 1 Thessalonians 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

> 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.