



Many churches celebrate Advent by having an Advent wreath on a table in the front of the sanctuary. The wreath encircles three purple candles and one rose candle. There is a white candle in the middle of the wreath. All are symbolic. Each week a theme is read, followed by a Scripture reading. A new candle is lit each week, along with the previous week's candle, and a prayer is read.

ADVENT SYMBOLS

Advent Wreath

The advent wreath, which is made of evergreens, points to the hope we have in God and signifies eternity and continuous life. The Incarnation of the Son of God did not end 12 days after Christmas, or at the cross. The Son of God became the Son of Man for eternity. The circle of the wreath – which has no beginning or end – symbolizes the everlasting love God has for us and the everlasting life we have in Christ.



Advent Candles

The four candles represent the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Jesus Christ. There are different understandings of what the five candles represent. The most common themes are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Other themes may be Expectation, Hope, Joy, and Purity, or Promise, Preparation, Peace and Adoration. In GCI Equipper, we focus on the common themes.



Three of the candles are blue or purple, symbolizing royalty – which is fitting as we begin Advent focusing on Jesus returning as King of kings and Lord of Lords. The pink candle symbolizes rejoicing, as we anticipate the celebration of his birth and what it means to us and to the world. The center candle is white and it reminds us that Christ is the light of the world; he is the light shining in the midst of darkness. He is Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Advent Readings

Typically, the lighting of the Advent is done at the beginning of the service and is followed by a Christmas hymn. This is a good time to get members involved in the service. One member can do the reading, light the candle and then pray, or you can involve several each week.



- » One person reads the theme
- » One person reads the Scripture
- » One person lights the candle
- » One person reads the prayer after the candle lighting

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