

For unto us
a child is born!



A GUIDE TO ADVENT 2026

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a word that means "coming" or "arrival." Long ago, Christians began using this word to talk about Jesus coming to earth—first as a baby at Christmas, and one day when He will come again. Today, Advent is a special church season when we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday. It starts four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve/Day.

WHY OBSERVE ADVENT?

Advent helps us get our hearts ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. Jesus is our King who was born in a special way and came to save us by living a perfect life and giving His life for us.

Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again one day as our forever King, and He will make everything right in the whole world.

HOW DO WE OBSERVE ADVENT?

Each of the four Sundays has a special theme: Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. These remind us of the wonderful gifts Jesus brings to the world. We celebrate Advent by learning each week about something special Jesus brings to us. We also celebrate by lighting a new Advent candle on the Advent Wreath to help us remember these gifts.

Then, on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day, we light the final candle, called the Christ Candle. It reminds us that Jesus is pure and powerful, and that we are called to proclaim His good news to others.

The Advent Wreath

WHAT IS AN ADVENT WREATH?

The Advent wreath is a special tradition that started in the 1800s. It is made of a circle of evergreen, which reminds us that God's love never ends.

There are five candles around the wreath:

* Hope (purple)
*Joy (pink)
*Peace (purple)
*Love (purple)
*Christ (white)

The purple candles remind us that Jesus is our King, the pink candle reminds us of the happiness Jesus brings, and the white candle represents Jesus' purity and power.

WHY USE AN ADVENT WREATH?

The Advent wreath helps us count the weeks until Christmas. Each week, you can read a Bible story, sing a Christmas song, and say a special prayer. Then, you light a new candle on the wreath each week to remember Hope, Joy, Peace, Love, and Jesus Christ.

MAKE YOUR OWN ADVENT WREATH!

At the end of this guide are a few different advent wreath options for you to make yourself!



The Prophet's Promise

"For the time is coming," says the Lord, "when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. And this will be his name: 'The LORD Is Our Righteousness.' In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety." **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" **Luke 1:31-33**

"Hope" in the Bible means being sure that God has a good and wonderful future for us. A long time ago, God's messengers (called prophets) told His people to keep hoping and trusting Him. They said that one day God would send a special Helper—the Messiah—who would save people from their sins and bring them close to God again. When Jesus was born, that hope came true.

O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
(O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Public Domain, 1861)

"Father God, thank You for the hope You placed in people's hearts long ago, and thank You for the hope You put in our hearts today. Long ago, people hoped for a Savior who would come to earth as a holy baby. That hope came true when Jesus was born and lived a perfect life. Now our hope is in the good future You have for us here on earth, and the even more amazing future we will have when King Jesus comes again. Thank You for Your wonderful promises and the blessing of this hope. We give You glory, honor, and praise. In Jesus' strong and saving name, Amen."



WEEK THREE: THE ADVENT OF PEACE

The People's Possession

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!" **Isaiah 9:6-7**

"Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'" **Luke 2:13-14**

The Bible tells us that real peace means having a calm and steady heart—because we are right with God, right with ourselves, and relating rightly with others. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace, which means He is the one who brings us God's perfect peace. When Jesus was born, peace came to earth in a brand new way. On that special night in Bethlehem, a tiny baby in a manger brought hope to the whole world. Because the Prince of Peace had come, it meant that fear, worry, sadness, and hopelessness no longer had to win. Jesus came so our hearts could be filled with His peace forever.

O Little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth,
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight.
(O Little Town of Bethlehem, Public Domain, 1867)

"Dear Jesus, our Prince of Peace, thank You for giving us Your calm and steady peace. Thank You that You help us feel safe with God, with ourselves, and with others. Because You are with us, we don't have to be afraid. Help us push away fear, worry, and sadness by holding onto the perfect peace You give. Your peace is a special gift, and we want to enjoy it every day. As we get ready to celebrate Your birthday, we ask You to take away our sin and fill our hearts. Be born in us today. In Your strong and saving name, Jesus, Amen."



The Angel's Proclamation

"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder." **Isaiah 9:2-3**

"But the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" **Luke 2:10-11**

When Jesus came into the world, He brought a kind of joy that no one had ever felt before. It was a special joy that came from God. This joy isn't just being happy when something good happens. It's a deep, strong joy that stays in our hearts because Jesus is with us. This joy grows when we know Jesus and talk to Him. Jesus didn't just bring happy moments—He brought joy that fills our whole hearts and helps us in everything.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
(Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Charles Wesley, 1739)

"Jesus, when You were born, joy came into the world. Your birth brought joy for all people, for all time. Just like the angels sang with great happiness, we also praise You with joyful hearts. King Jesus, You make our hearts glad. You take away our sadness and fill us with Your joy. You are the One who gives us everything we need inside our hearts. We give You all our thanks, all our praise, and all our love. In Your strong and loving name we pray, Amen."



WEEK FOUR: THE ADVENT OF LOVE

The Father's Passion

"For the mountains may move and the hills disappear, but even then my faithful love for you will remain. My covenant of blessing will never be broken," says the Lord, who has mercy on you." **Isaiah 54:10**

"Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant."
Luke 1:68-72

God's love for people is bigger than anything we can imagine. He loves us so much that He was willing to do whatever it took to bring us back to Him. We were lost and needed help, so God sent the greatest gift ever—His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to rescue us, fix what was broken, and bring us close to God again so we could be part of His family. That's what Advent reminds us of: God loved us so much that He gave up something precious to save everyone.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His love
(Joy to the World, Isaac Watts, 1719)

"Dear Father God, Your love for us is so big, and it makes our hearts feel thankful. Thank You so much for giving us Jesus, Your Son and our Savior. When we look at Jesus, we see how much You love us and how You want us to be part of Your forever family. Because You love us, we know what real love looks like. Because You love us, You shine Your light into our lives. Because You love us, we have life and hope. We give You our hearts and all that we are. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."



The Light's Presence

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **John 1:5-9**

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." **John 8:12**

God sent Jesus to be the Light of the World! After waiting and getting ready throughout the Advent season, we finally celebrate that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. His light is brighter than any darkness, and nothing can ever put it out.

Jesus came so that he could be with us. He didn't stay far away—He came as a tiny baby to show God's love in the most amazing way. Jesus brings us hope when we're worried, joy when we're sad, peace when we feel scared, and love every single day.

And the best part? Jesus is still with us today, and one day He will come again! May the light of Jesus fill your heart and help you shine His love to everyone around you.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
(Away In A Manger, Martin Luther)

"Dear Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as the Light that never goes out. When we feel scared or sad, help us remember that You are always with us. Fill our hearts with Your hope, joy, peace, and love every day. Thank You for being born in Bethlehem and for shining Your light into our lives. Help us to share Your light with our family and friends, so they can know Your love, too. We can't wait for the day You come again! We love You, Jesus. Amen."

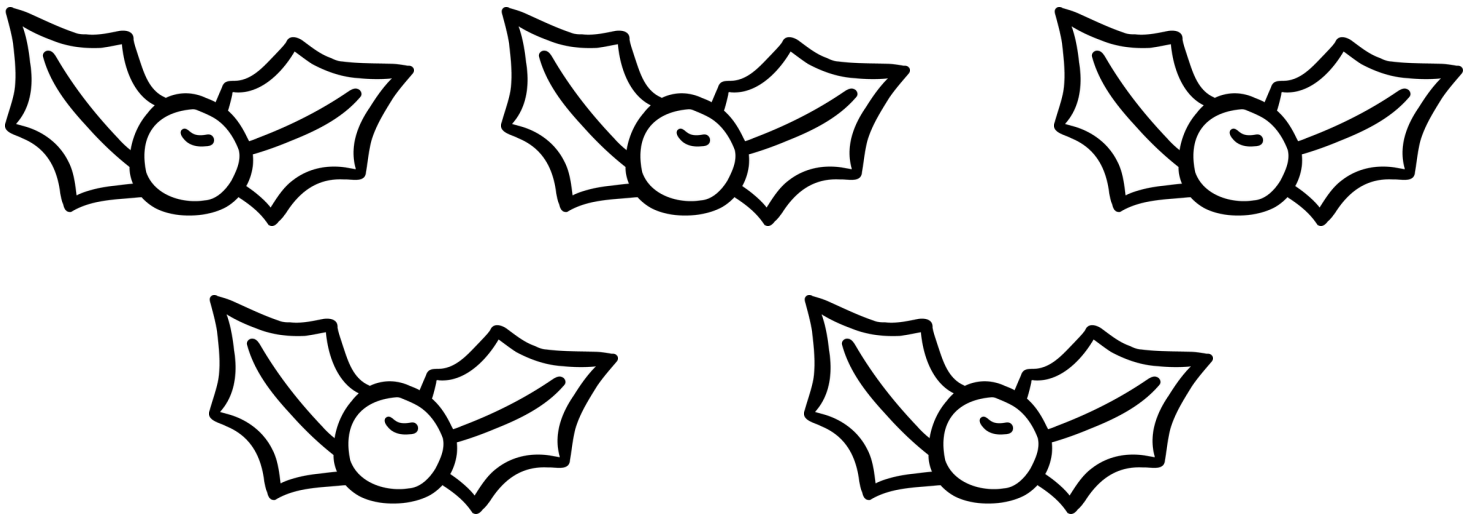
ADVENT WREATH OPTION 1

Instructions:

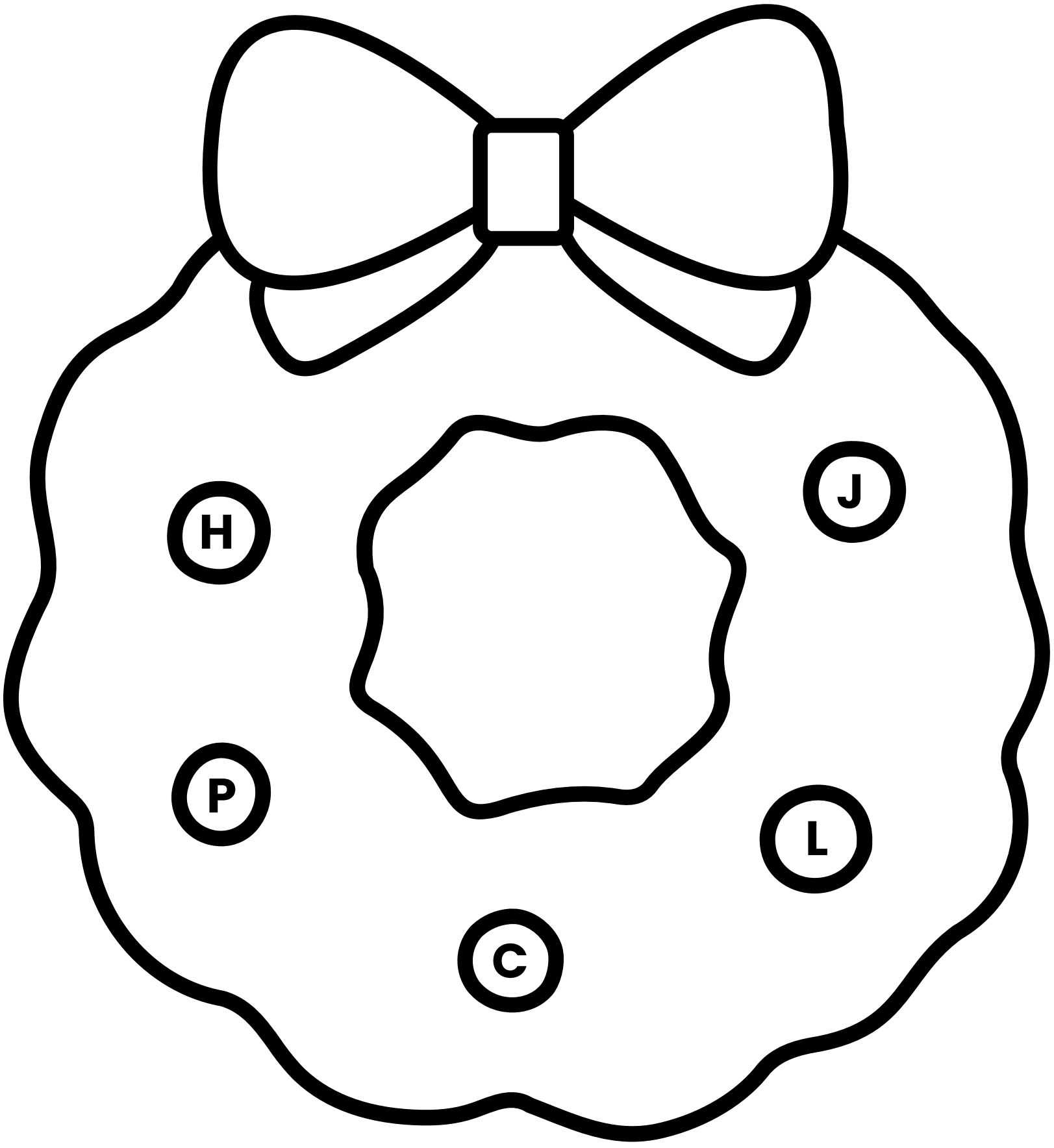
1. Color the wreath, candles, and holly berries (optional).
2. Cut out each piece that you have colored.
3. Glue or tape each candle to the matching first letter marked on the wreath.
4. Glue the holly berries at the base of each candle (optional)



purple pink purple purple white



ADVENT WREATH OPTION 1



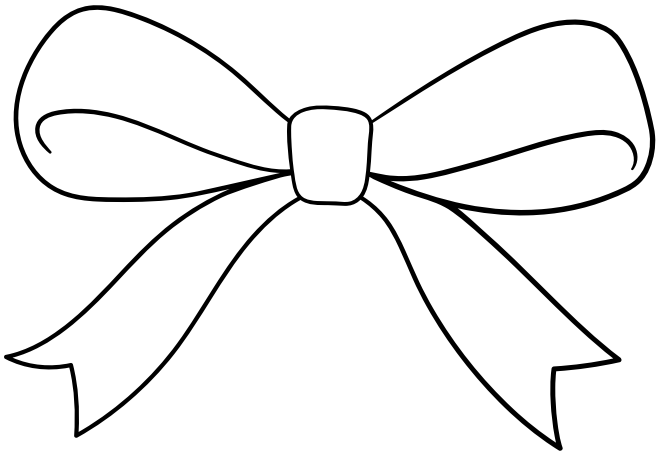
ADVENT WREATH OPTION 2

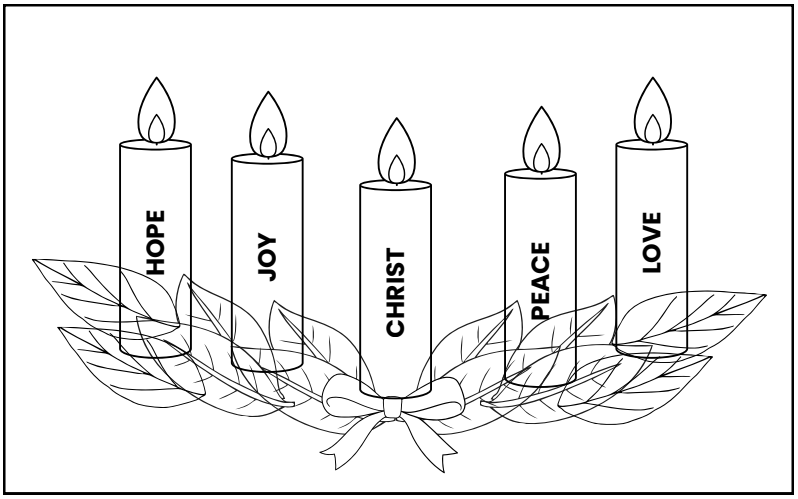
Instructions:

1. Color the leaves, candles, and the bow.
2. Cut out each piece that you have colored.
3. Glue the leaves together in a design of your choice. One option is pictured below.
4. Glue the candles to the wreath.



purple pink purple purple white







ADVENT WREATH OPTIONS 3 + 4

Instructions Option 3 (this page):

1. Cut out the design as pictured.

Instructions Option 4 (next page):

1. Cut out each piece.
2. Glue the candles to the wreath.





©2026 Life Reach Resources
All rights reserved.