

# ADVENT WREATH PRAYER SERVICE

## **FIRST SUNDAY** *(light a purple candle)*

We light the “Prophet’s Candle” to remind us of the light of hope that the Prophets had in the coming of the Messiah who would bring peace and light to the world.

**(Optional: Matthew 3: 1-2)**

**REFLECT:** Prophets see the other side of things. Practice seeing friends and family in a new light today, bring someone a piece of good news.

**LET US PRAY:** Prince of Peace, like a desert in bloom, you fill the dry dusty places in our hearts with bright hope. Help us to get ready for your coming by looking for you in one another and in our neighbours in need. Amen.

## **SECOND SUNDAY** *(light two purple candles)*

We light the “Bethlehem Candle” to remind us of the dark night when Joseph and Mary found light and warmth in the manger.

**(Optional: Matthew 2: 1-6)**

**REFLECT:** Do we ever act like the Bethlehem innkeeper, turning away the hungry and the homeless? How can we show thanks for a warm, safe home?

**LET US PRAY:** Lamb of God, we thank you for friends and strangers who have welcomed us when we were lonely, afraid or tired. Help us to make room in our hearts for those who need us, both near and far away. Amen.

## **THIRD SUNDAY** *(light two purple candles and one pink candle)*

We light the “Shepherd’s Candle” to remind us of the great light and joy that surrounded the shepherds when they heard about Jesus’ birth.

**(Optional: Luke 2: 8-12)**

**REFLECT:** What are some of the things we can do this week to bring joy to the world of animals, plants and people?

**LET US PRAY:** Emmanuel, God with us, as the shepherds found the holy child in a humble manger, so may we learn to look for you in our ordinary everyday lives. Amen.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY** *(light three purple candles and one pink candle)*

We light the “Angel’s Candle” to remind us of the light of the stars that guided the Magi to Jesus, and that kept watch over them by night.

**(Optional: Matthew 2: 7-11)**

**REFLECT:** What stars beckons us in this busy season? Choose paths that bring us closer to people, especially to people in most need of our love.

**LET US PRAY:** God of the starry skies, thank you for leading us as the astrologers of the old were led to the Christ Child’s crib. Forgive us for not always following in your way. Amen.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY** *(light all the candles including the white center one)*

We light the “Christ Candle” to remind us of the Baby born as the Prophets foretold, to be the Saviour of the World.

**(Optional: Matthew 1: 18-21)**

**REFLECT:** Who needs us to be the light and life for them this holy season? Make someone glad with a letter or a telephone call.

**LET US PRAY:** Jesus, Light of the World, be born in us today, so that we no longer walk in darkness. Grant us the light of life and make us ready for the miracle of your coming in all your glory and splendour. Amen.