Advent Wreath Home Devotional

Traditional Language
Advent is a season about hoping and waiting. We look at the past and remember Israel’s long ages of hopefully waiting as she longed for the promised Messiah to come from God. Israel’s ancient example then becomes the model for our present situation. We too wait for Jesus to come and with joyful longing we hope for that day when he will “make all things new” (Rev. 21:5).

In some ways Advent is a season that “bridges” the gaps between the ages: between the old covenant and the new, and between this world and the coming Kingdom of God. This is why I’ve placed an image of “Mary Consoles Eve” by Sr. Grace Remington on the cover. In the painting our mother Eve, tormented by the Fall and saddened by her sins, is comforted as she gazes upon the “seed of woman” (Gen. 3:15) in the womb of the “New Eve,” Mary of Nazareth. The dawn of a new age rests quietly before her eyes as an unborn boy. It is already, but not yet. In the same way, we await the “birth” and transition from this age to the next. It is already, but not yet. Time is pregnant and the pains of labor have started, but still we wait. May we do so this Advent prayerfully and in full hope of the coming salvation through Jesus Christ, our only God and King.

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This simple devotional guide is intended to help you and your family enter into the spirit of the Advent season. It arranges Scripture readings, biblical canticles, prayers from the Book of Common Prayer, and the ancient “O Antiphons” into five short liturgies that correspond to the four weeks of Advent and to Christmas Day. In my family we use the week’s liturgy each Sunday night in Advent and then on Christmas Eve, but you may find a more convenient time for you.

The instruction in the devotion also mentions an Advent Wreath with candles. This is an age old tool used in homes to mark the Advent season. Usually it is a simple wreath with four candles arranged around it. The candles are purple (the liturgical color of Advent) except for one, which is pink. This is for the third Sunday of Advent. Pink marks the “halfway” point in our Advent journey. In the center is a larger white candle. This is the Christ Candle and it is lit once Christmas has finally come.

While lighting candles on an Advent Wreath is encouraged for this devotion, it’s not strictly necessary. You can just as easily use these liturgies without a wreath, or you can simply light any candle you have sitting around. If you don’t own a wreath, I would encourage you to make one.

--Fr. Myles Hixson, Rector of Holy Cross Anglican Church
First Sunday of Advent

Invocation and Lesson

℣: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
℟: Amen.
℣: Our King and Savior draweth nigh.
℟: O come, let us adore him.

Reader: Here beginneth the sixty-fourth chapter of the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

[Read Isaiah 64:1-9a]

℣: Here endeth the lesson.
℟: Thanks be to God.

The Lighting of the Wreath
[The first candle is lit while the following is said or sung]

℟: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
℣: According to thy word.
℟: For mine eyes have seen
℣: Thy salvation.
℟: Which thou hast prepared
℣: Before the face of all people;
℟: To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
℟: And to be the glory of thy people Israel.
℣: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
℟: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer and Collect of the Day

℣: The Lord be with you
℟: And with thy spirit.
℣: Let us pray

℣: Lord, have mercy
℟: Christ, have mercy
℣: Lord have mercy

℟: Our Father, who art in heaven,
    Hallowed be thy name
    Thy kingdom come, they will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
   And forgive us our trespasses
   as we forgive those who trespass against us
Lead us not into temptation
   But deliver us from Evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
   Now and forever. Amen.

℣: Let us pray,

   Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,
   and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which
   thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he
   shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and [the]* dead, we
   may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and
   the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

Advent Litany
℣: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one
   end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
℟: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

℣: O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of
   the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:
℟: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

℣: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before thee kings will shut
   their mouths, to thee the nations will make their prayer:
℟: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

℣: O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; thou openest and no one can
   shutteth; thou shuttest and no one can openeth:
℟: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwelleth in
   darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
*R: Come and enlighten those who dwelleth in darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one:
*R: Come and save the human race, which thou fashioned from clay.
℟: O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
℣: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

℟: The Spirit and the Bride say: Come!
🌡: Amen, come Lord Jesus!

℟: Our King and Savior draweth nigh
🌡: O come, let us adore him.
Second Sunday of Advent

Invocation and Lesson
℣: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
℟: Amen.
℣: Our King and Savior draweth nigh.
℟: O come, let us adore him.

Reader: Here beginneth the twenty-fifth verse of the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.

[Read Luke 21:25-33]

℣: Here endeth the lesson.
℟: Thanks be to God

The Lighting of the Wreath
[The first and second candles are lit while the following is said or sung]

℣: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
_keeper: According to thy word.
℣: For mine eyes have seen
_keeper: Thy salvation.
℣: Which thou hast prepared
_keeper: Before the face of all people;
_keeper: To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
_keeper: And to be the glory of thy people Israel.
ⵔ: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
_keeper: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer and Collects of the Day
℣: The Lord be with you
_keeper: And with thy spirit.
℣: Let us pray

℣: Lord, have mercy
_keeper: Christ, have mercy
颏: Lord have mercy

_keeper: Our Father, who art in heaven,
groupBox: Hallowed be thy name
groupBox: Thy kingdom come, they will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from Evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,
Now and forever. Amen.

℣: Let us pray,

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in
which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last
day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the
quick and [the]* dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who
liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our
learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and
inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we
may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which
thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Advent Litany

℣: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one
day to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
℟: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

℣: O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of
the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:
℟: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

℣: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before thee kings will shut
their mouths, to thee the nations will make their prayer:
℟: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

℣: O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; thou openest and no one can
shutteth; thou shuttest and no one can openeth:
℟: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwelleth in
darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
℟: Come and enlighten those who dwelleth in darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one:
℟: Come and save the human race, which thou fashioned from clay.

℣: O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
℟: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

℣: The Spirit and the Bride say: Come!
℟: Amen, come Lord Jesus!

℣: Our King and Savior draweth nigh
℟: O come, let us adore him.
Third Sunday of Advent

Invocation and Lesson

℣: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghosty.
℟: Amen.

℣: Our King and Savior draweth nigh.
℟: O come, let us adore him.

Reader: Here beginneth the seventh verse of the third chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.

[Read Luke 3:7-20]

℣: Here endeth the lesson.
℟: Thanks be to God

The Lighting of the Wreath

[The first, second, and third candles are lit while the following is said or sung]

℣: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
℟: According to thy word.
℣: For mine eyes have seen
℟: Thy salvation.
℟: Which thou hast prepared
℣: Before the face of all people;
℟: To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
℟: And to be the glory of thy people Israel.
℣: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
℟: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer and Collects of the Day

℣: The Lord be with you
℟: And with thy spirit
℣: Let us pray

℣: Lord, have mercy
℟: Christ, have mercy
℣: Lord have mercy

℟: Our Father, who art in heaven,
    Hallowed be thy name
    Thy kingdom come, they will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from Evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,
Now and forever. Amen.

℣: Let us pray,

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in
which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last
day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the
quick and [the]* dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who
liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to
prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy
mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the
hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second
coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy
sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one
God, world without end. Amen.

Advent Litany

℣: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one
end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
℟: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

℣: O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of
the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:
*R: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

℣: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before thee kings will shut
their mouths, to thee the nations will make their prayer:
*R: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

℣: O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; thou openest and no one can
shutteth; thou shuttest and no one can openeth:
℟: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwelleth in darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:

℟: Come and enlighten those who dwelleth in darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one:
℟: Come and save the human race, which thou fashioned from clay.

℣: O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
℟: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

℣: The Spirit and the Bride say: Come!
℣: Amen, come Lord Jesus!

℟: Our King and Savior draweth nigh
℟: O come, let us adore him.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Invocation and Lesson
℣: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
℟: Amen.
℣: Our King and Savior draweth nigh.
℟: O come, let us adore him.

Reader: Here beginneth the twenty-sixth verse of the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.

[Read Luke 1:26-38]

℣: Here endeth the lesson.
℟: Thanks be to God

The Lighting of the Wreath
[All the Advent candles are lit while the following is said or sung]

℣: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
℟: According to thy word.
℣: For mine eyes have seen
℟: Thy salvation.
℣: Which thou hast prepared
℟: Before the face of all people;
℣: To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
℟: And to be the glory of thy people Israel.
℣: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
℟: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Collects of the Day

℣: The Lord be with you
℟: And with thy spirit.
℣: Let us pray

℣: Lord, have mercy
℟: Christ, have mercy
℣: Lord have mercy
℟: Our Father, who art in heaven,
    Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, they will be done
    On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
    as we forgive those who trespass against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from Evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,
    Now and forever. Amen.

℣: Let us pray,

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in
which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last
day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the
quick and [the]* dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who
liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

O Lord, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with
great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we
are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy
bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and 'deliver us; through the
satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be
honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Advent Litany

VERSE

℣: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one
ever to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
(Roles): Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Verger: O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of
the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:
(Roles): Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Verger: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before thee kings will shut
their mouths, to thee the nations will make their prayer:
(Roles): Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Verger: O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; thou openest and no one can
shutteth; thou shuttest and no one can openeth:
℟: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
℟: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

℣: O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one:
℟: Come and save the human race, which thou fashioned from clay.

℣: O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
℣: O come, let us adore him.
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Invocation and Lesson
℣: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
℟: Amen.
℣: Alleluia! Unto us a Child is born!
℟: O come, let us adore him. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: Here beginneth the ninth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah.
[Read Isaiah 9:1-7]

Here beginneth the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.
[Read Luke 2:1-7]

Here beginneth the Gospel according to St. John.
[Read John 1:1-5, 14]

(After each reading)
℣: Here endeth the lesson.
℟: Thanks be to God

The Lighting of the Wreath
[All the Advent candles and the Christ candle are lit while the following is said or sung]

℣: My soul doth magnify the Lord,
℟: And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
℣: For he hath regarded
℟: The lowliness of his handmaiden.
℣: For behold, from henceforth
℟: All generations shall call me blessed.
磙: For he that is mighty hath magnified me;
磙: And holy is his Name.
磙: And his mercy is on them that fear him
磙: Throughout all generations.
磙: He hath showed strength with his arm;
磙: He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
磙: He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
磙: And hath exalted the humble and meek.
磙: He hath filled the hungry with good things;
磙: And the rich he hath sent empty away.
磙: He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
℟: As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
℣: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
℟: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Lord's Prayer and Collects of the Day**

**℣:** The Lord be with you

**℟:** And with thy spirit

**℣:** Let us pray

**℣:** Lord, have mercy

**℟:** Christ, have mercy

**℣:** Lord have mercy

**℟:** Our Father, who art in heaven,

_Hallowed be thy name_

_Thy kingdom come, they will be done_

_On earth as it is in heaven_

_Give us this day our daily bread_

_And forgive us our trespasses_

_as we forgive those who trespass against us_

_Lead us not into temptation_

_But deliver us from Evil._

_For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,_

_Now and forever. Amen._

**℣:** Let us pray,

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

**℣:** Alleluia! Unto us a Child is born! Unto us the Word was made flesh! Unto us Light has come!

**℟:** O come, let us adore him. Alleluia! Alleluia!