

**The Advent Wreath Ceremony  
2024**



**St. James Parish Church  
Barbados**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY: HOPE**



***ADVENT 1: HOPE***

**LEADER:** Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. (**Light the candle**)

We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation. We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the Lord. We hope he will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God.

We light this candle in Hope.

**ALL:** on this day, we remember to hopefully look for the coming of Christ.

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY: PEACE**



**CELEBRANT:** Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. Let us light it again to show that our hope continues. (**Light the first candle.**)

**LEADER:** John the Baptist called on the people of his day to prepare the path for the coming of the Messiah. He called them to repent, turn around, change their ways. To live in peace with others, we need to repent

and change directions. We light this second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He shows us how to share God's peace with others. (**Light the second candle.**)

**LEADER:** The prayer of St. Francis asks God to help us be peacemakers. Let us say it together:

**ALL:** Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is sadness, joy;  
and where there is darkness, light.

Grant that we may seek not so much  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
in pardoning that we are pardoned  
and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY:**  
**WEEK 3: JOY**

**(Child 2 lights the first two candles again)**

**CELEBRANT:** We have lit again the first two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, the candle of joy.



**CHILD 1:** As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share with those we love. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will transform the people. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought “Good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people.” The good news of Jesus’ birth and the promise of Shalom are still “tidings of great joy” for us today.

**CHILD 2: Light the third candle.**

**CHILD 1:** Paul tells us to rejoice in God always. The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** God of Joy, thank you for the excitement and delight we experience at this joyful time of year. Help us to share your joy with others, so that they too will be filled with your spirit. **AMEN**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY**  
**WEEK 4: LOVE**



**CELEBRANT:** Today we will light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath.

**LEADER:** Before we do that, we remember God's blessings, symbolized by the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy.

**(Light the first three candles again.)**

Leader: The fourth candle helps us to remember that God is love.

**(Light the fourth candle.)**

**LEADER:** The Bible tells us that the greatest blessing is love. It is because God loved the world so much that Jesus came to share God's love. Mary sings her song in praise of God's love and goodness. Because God loves us, we must love and care for others. This candle reminds us to share our love with others through words and actions.

**ALL:** Loving God, thank you for expressing your love through the life of Jesus, through our lives, and the lives of those around us. Help us to remember that your love will never end. Amen

## CHRISTMAS EVE / DAY: THE CHRIST CANDLE

**CELEBRANT:** This is the last time this year we will light the Advent candles. **(Light all four candles.)**

**LEADER:** For four weeks the candles have been burning as we thought about Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. These are the gifts which Jesus brought to us at Christmas time. The waiting is over and Jesus is born.



**(Light the Christ candle.)**

**LEADER:** Each week another candle glowed and our wreath has shone more brightly. Today we light the Christ candle, the candle which represents Jesus. It is the center of our wreath, just as Jesus is the center of our lives. Happy birthday, Jesus.

**(Light the Christ candle.)**

**ALL:** God, our hearts sing with joy and praise because of Jesus. At this happy season we rejoice that Jesus came among us. By his birth and life, he has shown us that we are your people and that we are greatly loved. Help us to remember Christmas all year long by giving to others the gifts of life: Hope,

Peace, Joy and Love, expressed in the works of hands and hearts. **Amen**

# THE ADVENT WREATH



