

Advent Wreath (Advent Video Challenge 29 November)

Idea adapted from <https://www.eggloentertainment.com/advent-wreath-childrens-craft/>

This simple advent wreath can be made and used to decorate your home during Advent.

These directions can be used as a guide to help you create your own, and you can use and substitute any other materials you want. Paper towel and toilet roll holders can be replaced by real or battery-operated candles, or other candle-like objects from your home.



Be as creative and as simple or elaborate as you wish. We pray that making this wreath and pausing each day or week to reflect will bring some hope, peace, joy and love into your lives this advent.

What you'll need:

- A large piece of cardboard or timber off-cut for the base of the wreath that will hold the candles. A plate or tray would also work.
- Items to represent 4 candles (4 short and 1 tall). Cardboard tubes (paper towel or toilet rolls), or plastic plumbing tubes would work, as would real or battery-operated candles.
- Pink, Purple, and White paper or paint to colour candles.
- Green Paper or greenery to decorate the base of your wreath. Branches and leaves from your garden, or greenery make from Lego or playdough would also work.
- Letter Stickers or pens (if you want to label the candles)
- Yellow & Orange Tissue Paper (to make "safe" flames for fake candles).
- Paint and Paint Brushes/Sponges or Pens or crayons to decorate
- Scissors
- Hot Glue sticks and hot glue gun or other glue that will hold everything together.



The Meaning of the Advent Wreath

Before starting, take a moment to talk about and explain what Advent is, and what the different parts of the wreath mean.

In the busyness of the Christmas season, celebrating Advent provides us a time to focus our hearts on Jesus. Advent is Latin and means "coming", and starts 4 weeks before Christmas Day. Christians use this time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. It's also a time of repentance and meditation while anticipating Jesus' second coming.

Jesus is the light of the world and lighting candles on the advent wreath helps us to focus and reflect on this as well as building anticipation for the celebration of the first coming of Jesus. Each Sunday during advent, another candle is lit, each pointing to and reminding us of the hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brings.

The circular advent wreath is usually covered in green leaves symbolising God's eternity. The purple colour of 3 candles symbolises royalty, repentance and fasting, the pink of the third candle represents rejoicing and the white of the Christ candle stands for purity, light and victory.

Week 1 – gather to pause and light the first purple candle of Hope.

The first candle on the advent wreath is purple and represents hope. When we light the first candle, we remember we can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. Read - Romans 15:12-13.

Pray - Holy God, we begin this week of advent with hearts full of hope. You are our light and show us the way. Even when darkness is all around, you reveal light. Even when night lingers hope comes in the morning because of you. Please help us turn our hearts toward you and your hope. Amen.

Week 2 – gather to pause and light the second purple candle of Peace.

The second candle on the advent wreath is purple and represents preparation and peace. When we light this candle, we remember that God kept his promise of a saviour, born in Bethlehem. We can have peace through Him, the Prince of Peace, and during advent we get ready to welcome Him into our hearts and lives. Read - Luke 3:4-6

Pray – Holy God, we praise you for the hope and peace that you give us. As we move into the second week of Advent, we prepare our hearts to receive you. Just as Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem over rough terrain, so our lives lead us down rocky paths. Help us to be at peace and be ready to welcome you, O God. Amen.

Week 3 – gather to pause and light the pink candle of Joy.

The third candle on the advent wreath is pink and represents joy. When we light this candle, we remember that the angels sang a message of joy to the shepherds. Rejoicing is our response to the Good News — joy that our Messiah has come. The light of the world sweeps away the darkness in our world and in our hearts. We seek him and, in joy, find him. Read - Luke 2:7-15

Pray - Holy God, at times it is hard to find joy in our broken world. Help us turn our focus on you and rejoice! You are worthy of all honour and praise. May our joy be great as we find you this Christmas season. Amen.

Week 4 – gather to pause and light the purple candle of Love.

The fourth candle on the advent wreath is purple and represents love. The angels announced the good news of a saviour, sent because God loves us. Read - John 3:16-17

Pray - Holy God, your love for us is amazing. You sent your only son from heaven, to be a human, to walk with, share with, and teach us to know and love you. It is a mystery for which we are so grateful and one in which we hold our arms wide open to receive. Let your love wash over us this Advent season. And as this love washes over us, may we love others by your example. Amen.

Christmas Eve or Day – gather to pause and light the white Christ candle.

The last candle on the advent wreath is white and represents Jesus Christ, the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! Jesus is pure — without sin and because of his sacrifice he makes us white as snow. He is the light in the darkness and the victor over sin and death. We have life because of him. Read - John 1:29

Pray – Holy God, we thank you for Jesus Christ. Your son, our Saviour, who came to earth as a baby, and died as an innocent man so that we may live forever with you. Please fill us anew with you Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as we remember and celebrate your life with those around us. Amen

Creating Your Advent Wreath

1. Cut a piece of cardboard or timber into a circle or shape to make a sturdy base that the candles (or tubes) will fit on comfortably. Paint the base green if you want.
2. Trace around hands of family members onto sheets of green paper and cut out hand shapes. Glue onto base to make look like leaves/greenery. The base should be fully covered with hands/leaves.

If using other greenery, collect it, and set it aside to assemble later

3. Cut cardboard tubes to desired sizes and paint or cover with coloured paper. If you want you can label the candles Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Christ (or Jesus).
4. For “safe” flame, cut rectangles of orange and yellow tissue paper, and stack them alternately, rotating some so the corners show different angles. Loosely roll tissue paper stacks and place into candles with the corners up, and gently push in so they are not sticking out from the top of the candle. To “light” the candles, pull the tissue up to show the flame.

If using other types of candles or substitutes, colour or cover them as you like.

5. Arrange and sit or glue the candles to the base of the wreath with a hot glue gun or other glue. Arrange greenery as desired and find a place in your home to put the finished wreath.
6. Each week of advent take time to gather as a family to pause and light the next candle. As you do, read the scripture and what that candle represents and pray, asking God to be with you as you celebrate the anticipation of Christmas and Jesus’ return.
7. Take photos of your finished wreath and share them with jess@emmanueluca.org.au

