

Redeemer 2025 Advent Family Worship Guide

What is Advent?

For a long time Christians have celebrated the weeks leading up to Christmas with a season known as Advent. Advent dates to the early centuries of the church and simply means “coming” or “arrival.” Advent is a season of waiting. In this season, we wait with great anticipation for our Savior. We remember how the Jewish people waited for God’s Promised One, the Christ, who came to earth on the first Christmas. Like those believers of old, we also are waiting, for Jesus Christ to return in full glory, at his promised second arrival!



The Advent Wreath

Use of the Advent wreath in the life of the church is a relatively new practice, dating back less than 200 years, when a Lutheran pastor in Germany, Johann Hinrich Wichern, wanted to help children mark time during Advent as Christmas approached. Pastor Wichern fashioned the first Advent wreath out of an old cart wheel.

How to Use an Advent Wreath

Your Advent wreath can be made up of a circle of evergreens or other greenery. Four candles are placed in a circle just inside or around the greenery. A fifth candle, the Christ candle, can be placed in the center of the circle. (Often the Christ candle is white, and the others might be purple, pink, or blue. These color schemes are totally optional.) Each day during Advent, the candles are lit, perhaps before a meal, one Advent candle during the first week, then two the second week, and so on during the four weeks of Advent. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, all four Advent candles are lit, along with the Christ Candle in the center.

For each of the four Sundays in Advent and Christmas Eve, the reverse side of this card lists Scriptures and a hymn that will be used in our corporate worship services. You can share these passages and songs around your table as you light the Advent candles on those days. During the weekdays of those Advent weeks, you can use the Scriptures, hymns, and prayers found in Redeemer’s *What Child is This?* family devotional guide. We pray that the hope, faith, love, and joy of Advent would fill your hearts and minds as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world!

Visit redeemersa.org/TrainThemUp or download the Redeemer San Antonio app to access Redeemer Children’s Ministries’ Advent Family Worship Guide, and other resources in digital format.



Advent Family Worship 2025

First Sunday of Advent: November 30, 2025- Faith Candle

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-5

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-33

Litany: We light the first candle of Advent, the Faith Candle. We light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Hymn of Blessing: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Second Sunday of Advent: December 7, 2025- Joy Candle

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Litany: We light the second candle of Advent, the Joy Candle. We light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Hymn of Blessing: "Joy to the World"

Third Sunday of Advent: December 14, 2025- Hope Candle

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Litany: We light the third candle of Advent, the Hope Candle. We light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Hymn of Blessing: "Once in Royal David's City"

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 21, 2025- Love Candle

Old Testament Reading: Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-13

Litany: We light the fourth candle of Advent, the Love Candle. We light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Hymn of Blessing: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Christmas Eve: December 24, 2025- Christ Candle

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-5, 9-14

Litany: We light the last candle of Advent, the Christ candle. We light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Hymn of Blessing: "Silent Night"



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