

Advent 4 (3 purple candles and the pink one)

Celebrant: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love. We light this candle today to remind us that God is love. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

Prayer: *(All)* O God of Love, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Grant that we may so dwell in him that his perfect love fills our entire being. Make our worship a time in which we celebrate your love and are made ready to show that love to the whole world, both today, and forever. Amen.

Christmas Day (all candles lit including the central white one)

Celebrant: As we light these candles today, we thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way. We thank God for his gift of Jesus. We thank him that Christ his light has come into the world and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice. His truth, his love, his very self, transforms all who receive him.

Prayer: *(All)* Loving God, Emmanuel, we thank you for being with us - for sending your Son to walk with us and to lead us. Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent may be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you through Christ Jesus our Lord, this both now, and in the year to come, and forevermore. Amen.



St. John the Evangelist

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH ST. RAPHAËL



St. Raphaël



Advent Candle Liturgy

At the end of the service, please leave this copy at the entrance to the church, ready for future use

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT:

HOPE - PEACE - LOVE - JOY - CHRISTMAS

Introduction: The **wreath** is a circle, reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God. Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches. We use purple candles, as purple is the colour of royalty. Long ago, **purple** was the most difficult to produce and was reserved for only the very rich and powerful, like a king. Jesus is our king. You might have noticed that the priest's stole is no longer **green**, it is now Marian blue. Advent is a season of waiting and preparing, just as the Virgin Mary did; preparing for Jesus to come and be born. So the **colour of Advent** is blue and purple to remind ourselves of what Jesus did for us. The **purple** candles represent, **Hope, Peace and Love**. The **pink candle is for Joy**, a festive colour, a mix of purple and red and white, and it is lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. The **white candle** is lit on Christmas Day. White is the celebration colour in the church, it is used for Christmas, Easter, weddings, etc. It represents the angels present at Jesus' birth and on his day of resurrection at Easter. The lit candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Blessing of the Wreath

(each week)

Celebrant: *O God, our Father in Heaven, by Your word all things are made holy. Send out Your blessing upon this Advent wreath and the hands that created it, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts and minds well for the coming of Your Son, Jesus. May we receive from You many blessings and graces for our congregation. We ask these things in the Name of the same Christ, Jesus our Saviour. Amen.*

Advent 1 (1 purple candle) Hope

Celebrant: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope. We light this candle today to remind us that Jesus is our hope and the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises he has made to us and for the light he has brought into the world.

Prayer: *(All)* O God of Hope, Emmanuel, God with Us, we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's final appearing. Live in us and help us to live in you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, transform us so that our worship, our time of preparation, may be pleasing unto you, both now, and for evermore. Amen.

Advent 2 (2 purple candles) Peace

Celebrant: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope he gives us and for the peace he bestows.

Prayer: *(All)* O God of Peace, Emmanuel, we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's appearing. Work in our hearts at this time and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that he brings, the inner peace that tells us that we are united with you and the outer peace which will come when he returns to judge the world. Bless our worship that it may be pleasing unto you, and bless us that we may prove to be your faithful servants. Amen.

Advent 3 (2 purple and 1 pink candle) Joy

Celebrant: Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Prayer: *(All)* O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen.