

Instructions for Lighting the Advent Wreath

Thank you for your willingness to participate in worship by lighting the Advent wreath! Here are a few notes so you are prepared for this role.

Before worship:

- Please arrive a bit early to worship to get the microphone from the sacristy. You can use the handheld one. It has a switch on the side to turn on/off. Whoever will be speaking will need to use it. *Children/youth are welcome and encouraged to lead the congregation in the reading if they would like!*
- Let the Pastor who is leading worship that day know you have arrived!

During worship:

- Please plan to come forward at the *last verse of the opening hymn* to gather next to the font and advent wreath so that you are ready after the Pastor speaks the greeting. (Bring your bulletin or a copy of the reading with you!)
- Whoever is lighting the advent candles should get the acolyte taper and light it from the altar candles. *Do not light the Advent candle(s) until the we start singing the hymn! Just hold the taper during the reading.*
- The readings for each Sunday (see below) are divided into two voices. Take turns with who reads what! You can alternate by line or more than two people. Or a few lines together. Make sure to include children if they'd like to speak, too! Make sure that whoever is speaking talks directly into the microphone otherwise they will not be heard by the congregation.
- When the congregation starts singing, "We Light the Advent Candles", light the designated number of candles on the Advent wreath (one for the first Sunday of Advent, two for the second, etc.)
 - The person lighting the candles may appreciate having someone else hold the wreath still while they light – it spins!
 - If you are lighting more than one candle, please make sure to light the ones that have been lit the previous week(s)!
- When you are done lighting the candles, you may extinguish the taper and return it to the acolyte's stand and return to your seat.

After worship:

- Please return the microphone to the sacristy after worship.

Feel free to grab a Pastor before worship or drop Pastor Amy or Pastor Hoffman a note before then if you have any questions. Thank you for being part of worship!

Pastor Amy

November 28 – Advent 1

This litany is designed for two voices, but it could be adapted for three or four. The simple language and repetition was written with children in mind. We hope you will include them in this sacred ritual.

A: We hope for a world where all are fed.

B: We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

A: We hope for a world with wide open doors.

B: We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

A: We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

B: We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.

A: We hope for that world.

B: We long for that world.

A: We are homesick for that world.

B: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

A: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

B: We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

December 5 ~ Advent 2

This litany is designed for two voices, but it could be adapted for three or four. The simple language and repetition was written with children in mind. We hope you will include them in this sacred ritual.

A: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives, we gather together around the candle of peace.

B: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—

A: peace that rests between us and our grief,

B: peace around our anxiety,

A: peace between us and our self-criticism,

B: peace amidst our relationships,

A: peace at the core of our being,

B: peace hovering through and in our world.

A: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

B: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.

A: Let it be so. Amen.

December 12 ~ Advent 3

This litany is designed for two voices, but it could be adapted for three or four. The simple language and repetition was written with children in mind. We hope you will include them in this sacred ritual.

A: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

B: Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"

A: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

B: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

A: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

B: Joy is the energy of a new season.

A: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

B: So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

A: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you. B: Family of faith, we are close to home.
Amen.

December 19 ~ Advent 4

This litany is designed for two voices, but it could be adapted for three or four. The simple language and repetition was written with children in mind. We hope you will include them in this sacred ritual.

A: God's love is like an open door.

B: God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

A: God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

B: God's love is a table with room for you.

A: God's love is a crackling fireplace.

B: God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

A: God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

B: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

A: God's love is a home for all.

B: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

A: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

B: Amen.