



## Blessing of the Advent Wreaths

The Advent Wreath is a visual symbol marking the Advent season's progress. This practice originated as a domestic devotion opportunity for household prayer. The wreath, candles, and weekly prayers function as a simple but meaningful countdown timer for the passage of Advent. This liturgy of blessings is meant to follow a time of foraging and wreath assembly using gathered organic elements from surrounding outdoor areas. Note: This liturgy is a sample. Please adjust prayers, scriptures, and songs as needed for your context. This liturgy can be lay led.

### GATHERING PRAYER

All: Sacred soil below us,  
Sacred sky above us,  
Sacred water beside us,  
Sacred breath within us,  
Sacred Spirit before us.  
Creator God, make us one.

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND PURPOSE

Presider: Today, we have spent time in nature gathering elements for our advent wreaths. Let's name some of the elements we have gathered.

*(Here, the assembled call out and show some of their foraged elements.)*

We have used these items to create Advent wreaths, believing they will help guide us through this sacred season of preparation and waiting. Each part of the wreath has a meaning and a purpose. The natural elements remind us of the gift of Creation and God's presence in the world around us. The base is a circle with no beginning and no end; this reminds us of our never-ending life in Christ. The light of candles reminds us of the Holy Spirit's guidance. As we move through this service of blessing, may we prepare our hearts for the coming Christ.

### SONG

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*, Charles Wesley

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Portions of Psalm 104

Reader: What a wildly wonderful world, God!  
You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,  
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.  
The moon keeps track of the seasons, the sun is in charge of each day.  
God's trees are well-watered,  
Birds build their nests in those trees;  
Mountain goats climb about the cliffs; badgers burrow among the rocks.  
All the creatures look expectantly to you to give them their meals on time.  
You come, and they gather around;  
you open your hand and they eat from it.  
The glory of God— let it last forever!  
Let God enjoy his creation!

## 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

**Reader:** For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

### **A REFLECTION**

*Here, the presider or another can reflect on the intersection of the scriptures and the Advent wreath.*

### **BLESSING OF THE WREATHS**

**Presider:** This weekend begins the season of Advent, a season of hope and anticipation for what is possible, for what is True.

Let us open our hearts to God's love, inviting God's blessing on our wreaths and candles as we dedicate them as guiding symbols through this beautiful and complicated season, a season when we prepare our lives and homes to welcome Christ anew.

Creator God, we pray...

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to your abundant love.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the light of Christ may break apart the darkness of seeking our own will instead of your will, thus distorting our relationship with you, other people, and all creation.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our wreaths will remind us to continue to be faithful people, to love justice, do mercy, and walk humbly with you as we travel this Advent season and beyond.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the coming Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we seek to follow Jesus and his way of love.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **THE BLESSING**

**Presider:** Loving God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples; he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us; he is the Savior of all.

Creator God, let your blessing come upon this wreath. May its branches, pinecones, berries, rocks, moss, and all the elements we have gathered remind us of the varied ways your Spirit is active and present through all creation during all seasons of life.

Almighty God, let your blessing come upon the candles we light this Advent. May they shine as guides, leading us to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation and with you as we wait for the coming of Christ.

We ask this through the name of Jesus the Christ, our hope and savior. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY** (*Sung; from the United Church of Christ*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**A Prayer attributed to Saint Francis**

**All:** Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek 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; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

**SENDING**

**Presider:** Let us go forth into the light of Advent, preparing our hearts, homes, and world for the gifts of new birth.

**All:** Thanks be to God!