

# ADVENT BLESSING & PRAYERS

## ADVENT WREATH BLESSING AND PRAYERS

The weekly prayers are to be used on each Advent Sunday as a new candle is lit to signify the coming of the Lord. Half way through the season we light the rose candle on the Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday.

## SECOND SUNDAY

Father, do not turn from us, and do not avoid us now that we are looking for words to pray to you. If we call you God, and speak your name, it is because you first pierced the silence and called us sons and daughters. You have given us your word that you would not be far from us whenever we turn to you. And so we cast aside our doubts and our fears and place our trust in your promise to us. Father, make us receptive and open as you speak to us; may we receive the blessing of your peace as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Amen.



## THIRD SUNDAY

Father, we celebrate with joy the coming of your Son, for he has come in our past. We celebrate with hope the coming of your Son, for he will come again. We celebrate with peace the coming of your Son, for he is now in our midst. Help us to uncover and recognize his presence to men and women who touch our lives. Hatred and selfishness blind our eyes and keep us from bringing him forth. Free us now from all that stands in his way, that with a love for each other made genuine and real we might quicken his coming in our midst. Amen.



## FIRST SUNDAY

Father, the day of our salvation draws near; your light grows steadily around us to pierce the darkness of our minds and open us to the promise of life. Your Son, Jesus Christ, comes in our midst in Spirit where once he came in flesh. Open our eyes that we may see his presence and our ears that we may hear his call in all the events that fill our lives today. Give us the courage to respond to him; to carry on the work of service which he has sent us to accomplish. Give birth to your Son in our lives that through us he may give life to the world. Amen.

## FOURTH SUNDAY

Father, we are struck with wonder at the trust you have put in us. The work which your Son began by his coming in now put into our hands to complete. He longs to come again, but his time is not ripe, we must bring him forth into the world that is pleasing to him. Until that time, known only to you, when the heavens will open and we see him once more, we raise our eyes to you and ask your blessing while we set our hands to the task you have given us. Amen.

## A BLESSING

Father in you belong the seasons and the ages for you are the beginning and the end of all things. As our world enters the darkness of winter we kindle the fire to remind us that your Son is our light. Bless us, we pray, with the light and warmth of this holy season. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.