

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER



All gather around the Advent wreath

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Christ Jesus,

During these 4 weeks of Advent, we reflect on how we can prepare our hearts to better follow you. We pray that your light guides us, especially in moments of darkness. We pray, too, for those around the world who struggle on their own journeys, wherever they live. Each week, as we light another candle on the wreath and approach the celebration of Christmas, let us remember that you are the light of the world, that you lead all people on their journeys and that you bring all people from darkness into light.

ALL: Christ, let your light guide all those who journey. *Light the appropriate candle(s).*

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (2:1-5)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph, too, went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LEADER: We hear in this reading that Mary and Joseph had to journey to Bethlehem to enroll in a census while Mary was pregnant. Like the Holy Family, who struggled on their journey to find a place for their child to be born, millions around the world also face challenging journeys. They are forced to leave their homes when violent conflict erupts without warning. Women may walk miles each day just to get water. Farmers must find new ways to support their families after a storm, drought or war destroys their crops.

ALL: Christ, let your light guide all those who journey.

LEADER: Loving God, together with those around the world who struggle on their journeys, we gather around this wreath and pray with joyful hope that the light of Christ will illuminate our paths.

We praise you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, light of the world and hope of all nations.

We ask your blessing throughout the Advent season for those of us gathered here and for those who journey throughout the world. We ask all this through Christ our Lord. Amen