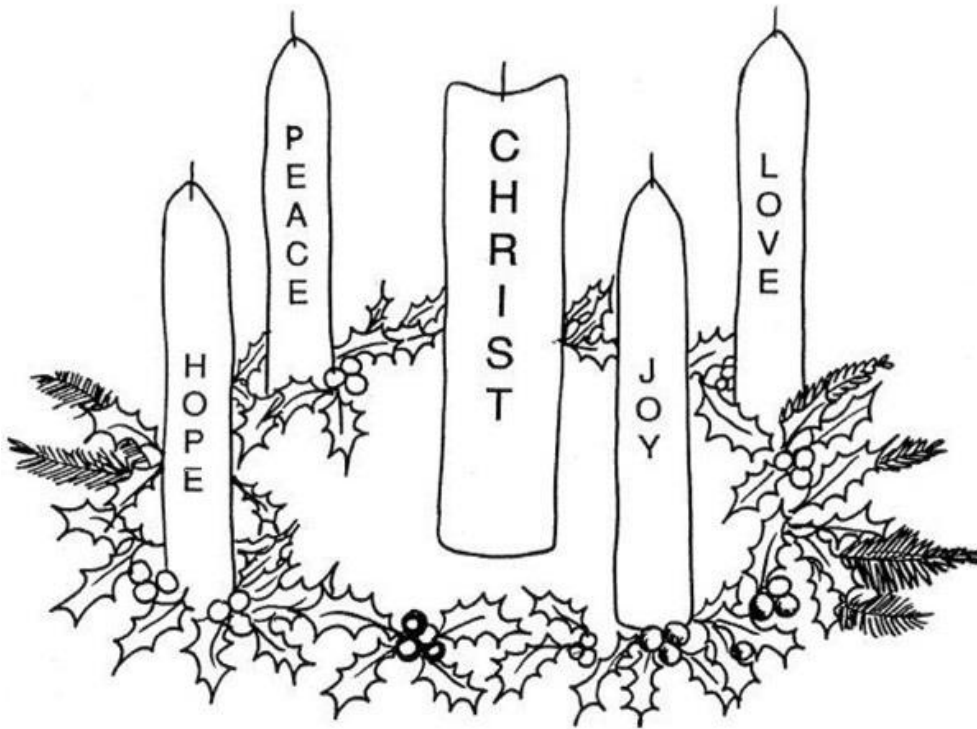


# The Advent Wreath and the meaning of the different candles

Colour the **wreath green**, the **flames yellow** and the candles **purple** or **pink** or leave **white**.



Advent means a time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus.

The Advent Wreath is round and shows us that God's love goes on forever. It is made from green leaves and this reminds us of hope and new life. There are four candles around the wreath and one in the middle. We light a new candle around the wreath on each of the four Sundays in Advent.

The first one is lit on the first Sunday in Advent and this is the candle of **HOPE**. It is usually purple and reminds us of the 'Patriarchs', the first fathers in the Bible like Abraham, Isaac and David. Jesus was born in David's city called Bethlehem. Your parents will remember singing the Carol 'Once in Royal David's City'.

The second candle is lit on the second Sunday in Advent and is the candle of **PEACE**. We light the first candle as well, so now two candles are lit on our wreath. This candle is also usually purple. When we light this candle, we think of the Prophets in the Old Testament like Isaiah, who told us that Jesus would come and about his birth.

The third candle is lit on the third Sunday and is sometimes pink rather than purple. This is the candle of **JOY**. The Angels send a message of Joy that Jesus is coming. We remember John the Baptist who also told us that Jesus was coming.

On the fourth Sunday in Advent we light the fourth candle on the wreath the candle of **LOVE**. This candle is purple, and we remember Mary the mother of Jesus.

On Christmas Day we light the white candle in the middle of the wreath and remember Jesus, born on Christmas Day. Jesus is the 'Light of the World'.

## **A prayer for Christmas Day**

Jesus, today is your birthday  
You fill us with the gifts  
Of hope, peace, joy and love.  
Help us to give you the gift  
Of our time and love today and always.  
Amen

**Remember only grown ups should light candles**