

# BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

This Advent wreath blessing can be used after you make your wreath but before you light the first candle. A bowl with burning incense can be put near or in the middle of your wreath. The incense is optional if you have small children, older adults, or someone who is sensitive to incense.

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*All present make the Sign of the Cross:*

Advent wreath give praise to you, O God.

**LEADER:** Our trust is placed in your hands, heavenly Father.

*Pause and then say:*

**ALL:** Creator of heaven and earth.

**LEADER:** Father, help us prepare our hearts and homes during this Advent season for your Son.

**ALL:** Come, Lord Jesus!

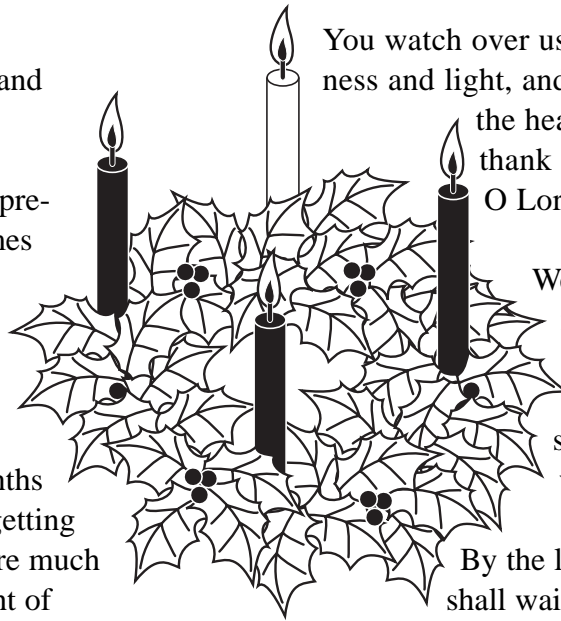
**LEADER:** The winter months are here. The days are getting shorter and the nights are much longer. We need the light of your Son, Jesus, to fill us with his warmth, love, and joy. And so we gather around this wreath in preparation, anticipation, and hope in his coming as God-made-Man.

The circle shape of this wreath reminds us of the coming of Jesus, God-made-Flesh, and his unending love for us.

The light of the candles reminds us of the coming of Jesus, who is the Light of the World.

The greenery of the branches will remind us of the coming of Christ, who brings us eternal life.

Let us all who are gathered here around this



You watch over us, O Lord, through darkness and light, and through each season of the heart. We praise you and thank you for your watchfulness, O Lord.

We praise you and thank you for this Advent wreath, a crown of your royal people, a symbol for us as it shines with the promise of victory over evil.

By the light of this wreath, we shall wait in patience for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, God-made-Man.

We are confident that he will give comfort to our sorrows and will bring hope to our wounded world.

May praise and glory always be on our lips, now and forever.

**ALL:** Amen.

*All make the Sign of the Cross.*

*Sing an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" or "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Thomerson, or play the song "Emmanuel, God With Us" by Amy Grant.*