

A Guide for Worship Leaders

Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer: A Simply Centered Advent

#ColorYourAdvent



Lighting the candles of the Advent wreath in worship during the four weeks that lead up to Christmas is a highlight of the season for many. *Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer* builds on this longstanding tradition and provides a candle-lighting liturgy in each chapter that corresponds with each weekly theme: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. In addition, each chapter begins with a short, inspiring story that could be used as a sermon illustration to support the theme of the week.

Enjoy this sample liturgy from week one, centered on the theme of hope. (Please feel free to use and adapt this for your worship setting with credit to its source.)

Prayer of Invitation

God of hope, as we light this candle, help us to be still and stay centered in you. This Advent, may we see beauty amidst brokenness and hope amidst despair. Your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. Shine your light on us, in us, and through us. May we have eyes to see. Amen.

Scripture Reading - Ephesians 1:18-19

With the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Music

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (United Methodist Hymnal #206)

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, light our path as we journey with Mary and Joseph toward Bethlehem. Open the eyes of our hearts, and fill us with an awareness of your presence in all that we do, all that we say, and all that we are. Encircle us with your light. Whisper to us in the silence. Slow us down, and allow the candles of the Advent wreath to light our way. Amen.

Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer: A Simply Centered Advent, Garner, Sharon Seyfarth, Upper Room Books, 2017, page 33-34 (used with permission).