

# Advent Wreath

**First Sunday:** Hope in God's presence with us

R: Keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” (Mark 13:35-37)

*Light the first candle*

Read Mark 13:32-37

R: God of the Present Moment,

**P: We hear your invitation to keep awake.**

R: When hope feels as fleeting as a bird,

**P: We are reminded that you are ever-present.**

R: We pray that hope lingers and makes a home in our lives this Advent. Amen.

**Second Sunday:** Peace in Each Step of the Journey

R: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid... (Isaiah 40:1-2a)

*Light the second candle*

Read Isaiah 40:1-8

R: God of our journeys, whether we walk with purpose,

**P: or walk without clear direction;**

R: Whether we are in a valley,

**P: or on the mountain top.**

R: Grant us, we pray, your eternal peace. Amen

### **Third Sunday: Joy Experienced and Shared**

R: Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”  
The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy. (Psalm 126:2-3)

*Light the third candle*

Read Psalm 126:1-6

R: Rejoicing comes when we are at peace with others,

**P: When we're encouraging the faint-hearted,**

R: When we are helping the weak,

**P: And being patient with our neighbor.**

R: God of laughter, expand our joy and help us to share it in our communities this week.  
Amen

### **Fourth Sunday: Love Living Among Us**

R: When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! (Luke 1:41-42)

*Light the fourth candle*

Read Luke 1:39-45

R: Greater love hath no man than this,

**P: that a man lay down his life us.**

R: Jesus, who came to dwell among us

**P: demonstrated God's great love for us.**

R: God of Love, continue to take on flesh and be made real in our families, in our communities and in the world. Amen.

### **Christmas Eve**

R: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:5)

*Light the Christ candle*

Read John 1:1-5,14

R: In the past weeks we stayed awake looking for hope

**P: We received your comfort and your offered peace**

R: We shared our joy in serving others.

**P: We embodied the love you offer us**

R: God of light. May your hope, peace, joy and love fill the earth. Amen.