



Blessing of the Advent Wreath

OUTLINE

In the first week of Advent, it may be appropriate to commence with a blessing of the Advent wreath.

Leader † In the name of the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All Who made heaven and earth.

Leader As we commence this Advent period of waiting we bring our experiences of all that has happened since we last kept this Advent time. We draw on the ancient stories, and special songs that characterise the season. We also look outside ourselves and think about how we can make a difference during this Advent period. It is a time of hope and joyful longing as we prepare for the great celebration of Christmas.

Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 9:2)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

[Time of silence]

Leader Lord, we ask for your blessing upon this wreath. As we light these candles we wait with joyful hope for the coming of Emmanuel—the hope of ages. Let your blessing also be upon us as we keep this time of Advent.

May the wreath and its light remind us of your presence and of the light of life that Jesus, the Emmanuel, God-with-us brings.

All Amen.

[The first candle is lit]