

Bear Creek UMC Advent - Home Edition Week 1

Read the scripture and the liturgy below this Sunday as you light the first purple candle of the Advent Wreath.

Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37

Reader One:

This is the Season of Singing. If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

Reader Two:

The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down... To make your name known... so that nations might tremble at your presence." So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

Reader One:

We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

Reader Two:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Make Your Own Advent Wreath

Your Advent wreath can be four candles within a circle of evergreens or just four candles arranged in a circle. The circular shape represents God's never-ending love for us. You will need 5 candles -- 3 purple, 1 pink, and 1 white. The purple candles represent patiently waiting. The pink candle represents joy, and the white candle, lit on Christmas Day, represents the birth of Jesus. Instead of candles, battery operated votives (tea lights) decorated with purple and pink ribbon work just as well.

¹ 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. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:1,6 (NRSV)