

THE TRADITION OF ADVENT CANDLES

The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word ADVENTUS meaning arrival. It is the four week period leading up to Christmas. The four candles remind us that we are preparing for the coming of the CHRIST CHILD, who is the light of the world. Each candle reminds us of the virtues Jesus desires for the entire world.

HOPE The first candle symbolizes the hope that Christ's birth brings us. We pray for an outpouring of hope in our homes, families, and hearts. Lord, help us prepare our hearts by being open to the light of Christ in others.

LOVE The second candle symbolizes the love that comes from intimacy with Jesus. Lord Jesus, help us prepare our hearts for your coming by loving others as you love us. Let us be astounded by your closeness to us and allow love to expand within our homes.

JOY The third candle symbolizes the joy that comes with Christ in our lives. Lord, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Allow our lives to truly be joyful and simple. Help us to be receptive to the freedom you desire for us.

PEACE The fourth candle symbolizes the peace of a heart close to Christ. Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us. Help us prepare our homes for the birth of baby Jesus, by allowing Christ's peace to fill our hearts.

