

## Prayers for the Advent Wreath

Each week:

All-loving Father, we gather around this wreath during the holy season of Advent. Hear our songs and prayers as we prepare for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit set these words ablaze in us, opening our minds and hearts to the true meaning of Christmas.

**Sing:** *O little Town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie, Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light, The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.*

### First Week

(One purple candle is lit.)

O God of all Creation,  
As we light our first candle,  
we praise you for the beauty  
of the world that you have  
entrusted to us. May your  
Holy Spirit enkindle in your  
people such a love of your  
creation that we respond with  
enlightened care for the earth.  
This we ask through Christ,  
our Light and our Hope,  
whose coming is certain and  
whose day draws near.

**Suggested Readings:**

Genesis 1: 27-31; 1 Tim 4: 4-5

**Sing** to the tune of "O little  
Town...":

*Teach us to live the trusting life,  
To act with humbleness; To rid  
our souls of pride and hate, In all  
things thee to bless; Make us in  
thine own image, To serve our  
human race, Fair stewards of the  
priceless things, True justice,  
hope and grace.\*\**

\*\*Used with permission  
from Alternatives for Simple Living.

### Second Week

(Two purple candles are lit.)

O God of Justice,  
As we light two candles, bend  
our hearts and minds toward  
those who wait in darkness to  
see the light of justice and  
freedom. May your Holy  
Spirit enable us to bring forth  
justice for the poor, mercy for  
the prisoner, welcome to the  
stranger, and freedom for the  
oppressed. This we ask  
through Christ, our Light and  
our Hope, whose coming is  
certain and whose day draws  
near.

**Suggested Readings:**

Micah 6: 6-8; Luke 1:46-55

**Sing** to the tune of "O little  
Town...":

*When lives of humble service  
preach the Good News to the  
poor, When troubled minds or  
bodies find A welcome at our  
door, When healing hearts and  
hands lift The lowly from the  
dust, Then ring the bells and sing  
Noels: For Christ is born in us.\*\**

### Third Week

(Two purple, one pink candle)

O God of Might,  
As we light these candles, in  
joyful anticipation of the  
coming of the Prince of Peace,  
open our eyes to our part in  
the suffering of your world.  
May your Holy Spirit grant us  
the wisdom and compassion  
to bring about reconciliation  
among families, cooperation  
among communities, and  
peace among nations. This we  
ask through Christ, our Light  
and our Hope, whose coming  
is certain and whose day  
draws near.

**Suggested Readings:**

Micah 4: 1-5; John 14: 26-27

**Sing** to the tune of "O little  
Town...":

*No longer dreamless, Bethlehem,  
You bear the wounds of war; Can  
words of peace make conflict  
cease, When freedom is no more;  
No! therefore work for justice,  
Let swords thrust none apart.  
When all are free, the world may  
see Christ born in every heart!\*\*\**

### Fourth Week

(All candles are lit.)

O God of Glory,  
As we light all of these candles  
in an attempt to dispel the  
darkness of greed, stress, and  
frenzy that threaten to engulf  
us, embrace us with your  
calming presence. May your  
Holy Spirit gift us with the  
grace of simplicity that we  
may truly experience the joy  
of Christmas. This we ask  
through Christ, our Light and  
our Hope, whose coming is  
certain and whose day draws  
near.

**Suggested Readings:**

Prov 8: 17-21; Luke 2: 8-14

**Sing** to the tune of "O little  
Town...":

*Make us content with simple  
joys, Free us from willful waste,  
No longer ruled by avarice,  
Slaves to a worthless taste; Give  
minds and hearts to seek No  
treasures but from thee, And  
share with us a boundless faith  
Displayed in charity.\*\**