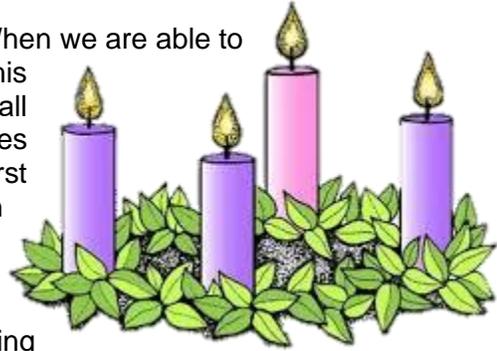


## A Do It Yourself Advent Wreath

The season of Advent begins on November 29, 2020. When we are able to gather in person one of the treasured traditions of this season is the lighting of the Advent candles. You'll recall that you see the wreath in the sanctuary with four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent. On the first Sunday of Advent, one candle is lit and then an additional candle is added each Sunday. The important aspect of the tradition of the Advent Wreath comes with the very meaning of the word Advent. "Advent" is from the Latin and means "coming." For during



this season, we are anticipating with hope and faith the celebration of the coming of the Christ child as well as the hope and faith that one day we will be able to see and understand all of God's good intentions and loving desires for all peoples of the world. Sometimes we think of this as the second coming. The candles represent the light of Christ coming into the world and each week of this season, we see that light coming nearer. The greens that make up the wreath represent life, growth and eternity.

The history of the Advent Wreath and the many traditions that go along with the practice of lighting the candles is so interesting and fun to read about, but is beyond the space we have here. An Advent Wreath can be beautifully adorned. If you'd like to make an Advent Wreath at home, the project could easily send you into the waiting line at an arts and crafts store as well as a garden shop. Everything is on YouTube these days including many tutorials on how to make an Advent Wreath for your home. Here, we offer a simpler way for making a wreath so that when you join us virtually for worship each week at Prince of Peace Church, you can also join in the tradition of lighting the Advent candles.

1. You will need four candles. They can be votive candles placed in votive candleholders or on a plate. You can also use tapered candles, each placed in a candleholder. In churches, you will see different colors of candles used. Often you will see three purples and one rose colored candle or four purples, sometimes the candles are blue. You might choose these colors or you might use all white candles or whatever you have available in your home. Each candle does represent something special like hope, love, joy and peace, but you will learn what each one represents in each week's prayer as the candles are lit in worship.
2. If you have a tray, you can place the candles on a tray in a circle.
3. You can get some evergreens from your Christmas tree or look in your yard and cut some evergreens. Surround the candles with the evergreens. You will need to spray the greens with water periodically because they need to last four weeks or you can replace them if they get too dry. You can also use artificial greens around the candles if you have those.
4. Sometimes, especially children, might like to put some small pine cones or stones or other objects within the greens to make the wreath decorative.
5. Sometimes there is a candle (usually a white one) placed in the middle of the wreath which is lit on Christmas Eve celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

This is a simplified way to bring the Advent Wreath tradition into your home. This tradition reminds us of what we are truly waiting for in a season that can so easily get caught up with catalogs arriving in the mail, shopping, baking, and scurrying with Christmas preparations. You may or may not enjoy all of that. But the Advent Wreath with the candles reminds us of what God did for all of us in sending the light of Christ into our world.

***See you in worship, virtually together.***