

Prayer

*Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh
and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit.*

Fill us with your joy,

and help us shine as a light to the world.

Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 December

Reflection

The life and death of this child, whose birth we celebrate, opened the way to God's heart. So love is the source of all our faith, hope, peace and joy, expressed forever in this birth.

Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love divine;

Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign, (Christina Rossetti)



Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath.

The final candle is LOVE, the Christ candle.

Scripture Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Prayer

O God of faith, hope, peace, joy, and love.

As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world,

now help us welcome you into our lives.

Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace.

Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love,

through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.

Turton Moorland Team Ministry Advent Wreath devotion 2020

ADVENT SUNDAY

29 November

Reflection

The Bible is full of reminders that God keeps

faith with us even when the people are not

faithful. 'Those who gladly do right' are those who remember him and strive to lead lives that are worthy of him. In troubled times it is often hard to see the hand of God in the events of the world around us. So today's prayer is for a strong sense of his presence and confidence in what he intends.



Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This first candle is **FAITH**.

Light the first candle

Scripture Isaiah 64. 4-5

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

Prayer:

Eternal God, as we await the coming of our saviour,

strengthen our faith in your goodness.

*Help us to place our trust in you when we find it hard to see
the future for our lives, for our community and for the world.*

Through Jesus Christ, the ground and foundation of our faith. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 6 December

Reflection

When things are bad, **hope** is what keeps us going: hope that the bad times will soon be over; hope that better things are to come; hope that our perseverance will be its own reward. Emily Dickinson wrote that 'Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul', that sings through the stormiest times. Our ancestors in faith hoped for a time

when God's rule of love would cover the earth. We believe that time began with the birth of Christ.



Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath.
The first candle is FAITH, the second candle is **HOPE**
Light the first and second candles

Scripture Isaiah 40.3-5

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Prayer

*Gracious God, as we see a world of suffering and despair,
give us the courage to hope.
Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives,
for our community, and for the world.
Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.*

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 13 December

Reflection

God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it too. We dream of a world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and we eat at one table. We know this **peace** cannot come while-ever there is injustice, oppression, inequality. So justice – the knowledge of the Lord – must be established throughout the world in order that all may live in peace.

How do we bring peace in our own lives?

Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath.
The first candle is FAITH, the second candle is HOPE, and the third candle is **PEACE**.

Light the first three candles: if you have a pink one, today is the day to light it!
(The traditional collect for the 3rd Sunday in Advent began with the Latin *gaudete*, meaning 'rejoice' so pink is a relief from the purple of penitence, the tone for the rest of Advent)



Scripture Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Prayer

*Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts,
and peace for our souls.
Give us grace to seek peace in our lives,
peace in this community, and peace in the world.
Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 20 December

Reflection

When Mary learned of her destiny she was 'much perplexed' but as the child grew so did her certainty. A birth brings the **joy** of new life, even when the circumstances seem set against it. Not every child is born into a loving home. Not every child grows in the knowledge that they are loved. Not every child has enough to eat or a safe lodging. The child of Mary knew danger and fled from it to Egypt. Even as they faced life as refugees, his mother 'kept all these things in her heart' and guarded her joy.

What brings us joy? How can we guard and keep it in troubled times?

Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath.
The first candle is FAITH, the second candle is HOPE, the third candle is PEACE, and the fourth candle is **JOY**.

Light four candles

Scripture Luke 1.26-31

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.



Turton Moorland Team Ministry
Advent Wreath devotion 2020

First make your wreath.

There are different traditions about the wreath but the basis is a ring of evergreen with 4 or 5 candles placed inside.

The four outer candles can be all purple, or three purple and one pink, or all red.

The middle candle is always white.

You can make yours however you like. Make sure they are secure and in a safe place, especially if children are involved!

Blessing the wreath

On Advent Sunday say a prayer of blessing over your wreath:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.

He is the hope of all peoples,

and the Saviour of every nation.

As we wait for his coming, bless this wreath,

that it may be for us

a sign of our faith, hope, peace and joy this Advent.

Lighting the candles

Each candle stands for a different aspect of Advent and links with readings from the Bible.

Each Sunday in Advent choose a time to light the candles, listen to words of scripture and pray for yourself and for all those you love.

A different family member can light the candle each week and lead the readings.