



From the Worship and Music Committee....

What is an Advent wreath and what does it symbolize? Wikipedia explains!

The **Advent wreath**, or **Advent crown**, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of [Advent](#) in the [liturgical calendar](#) of the [Western church](#). It is traditionally a [Lutheran](#) practice, although it has spread to many other [Christian denominations](#).

It is usually a horizontal [evergreen wreath](#) with four [candles](#), sometimes with a fifth, white candle in the center. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a [Bible reading](#), [devotional time](#) and [prayers](#). An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before [Christmas](#), all four candles are lit. Many Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle which is lit at [Christmas Eve](#) or Christmas Day. The custom is observed both in family settings and at public church services.

Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite [love](#), and are usually made of evergreen leaves, which "represent the hope of [eternal life](#) brought by [Jesus Christ](#)." Within the Advent wreath are candles that generally represent the four weeks of the Advent season as well as "the [light of God](#) coming into the world through the [birth of Jesus Christ](#)" although each of the candles has its own significance as well; individually, the candles specifically [symbolize](#) the Christian concepts of hope (week one), peace (week two), joy (week three) and love (week four) in many traditions. Many Advent wreaths also have a white candle in the center to symbolize the arrival of [Christmastide](#), sometimes known as the "Christ candle." It is lit on [Christmas Eve](#) or [Christmas](#) Day. The Christ candle is colored white because this is the traditional festal color in the Western Church.^[18]

In many Catholic and Protestant churches, the most popular colors for the four surrounding Advent candles are violet and rose, corresponding with the colors of the liturgical vestments for the Sundays of Advent. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church uses violet for Advent paraments and the minister's stole.