



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer For The Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is

the Savior of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

We light an **advent candle** today, a small dim light against a world that often seems forbidding and dark. But we light it because we are a people of hope, a people whose faith is marked by an expectation that we should always be ready for the coming of the Father. The joy and anticipation of this season is captured beautifully in the antiphons of hope from the liturgies:

See! The ruler of the earth shall come, the Lord who will take from us the heavy burden of our exile

The Lord will come soon, will not delay.

The Lord will make the darkest places bright.

We must capture that urgency today in the small flame of our candle. We light the candle because we know that the coming of Christ is tied to our building of the kingdom. Lighting the flame, feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, reconciling the divided, praying for the repentant, greeting the lonely and forgotten – doing all these works hastens His coming.