

## **Getting Started:**

### **The Advent Wreath**

The traditional Advent wreath is a collection of five total candles. Four candles representing the weekly Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love surround a fifth candle, traditionally lit on Christmas Eve, representing Christ.

Many Advent wreaths use colored candles to further distinguish each week's theme. Purple candles represent Hope, Peace, and Love. A pink candle represents Joy. A white candle represents Christ.

Advent wreaths may be as simple or as creative as you would like. Your wreath might simply be five candles sitting on a plate or tray. Or you may want to turn your at-home Advent observation into a family project and create a more substantial wreath to be used throughout the years. Many craft stores now sell wreath forms that include candle holders for the advent candles. These can be decorated with garland, ribbon, flowers, or greenery as your family sees fit.

Please keep safety in mind when lighting an advent wreath at home. You may want to consider battery operated candles for your wreath. If using traditional candles, don't leave your wreath unattended once the candles have been lit, and fully extinguish all candles once your Advent observation is over.

### **Observing Advent**

This guide includes a collection of items that may be helpful for observing Advent at home. Included for each week of Advent is the traditional litany we recite during worship each Advent Sunday; a copy of the Gospel reading for each Advent Sunday; a suggested hymn for each Advent Sunday; and a prayer for each Advent Sunday.