


The Advent Wreath and Candle Colors

The Advent wreath traditionally has four candles;
three purple and one rose (pink).

Some families or churches also add a fifth white candle in
the center, known as the Christ Candle, which is lit
on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.


Prophecy Candle

Hope.  Purple
Anticipation of the Messiah


Bethlehem Candle

Peace.  Purple
Preparation and repentance

Shepherd's Candle

Joy.  Rose
Rejoicing that Christ is near

Angel's Candle

Love  Purple

God's love and final readiness
Christmas . Christ's Birth

Christ Candle ***White***

Jesus, Light of the World

First Week of Advent – The Prophecy Candle (Purple)

Hope

The first candle represents hope, recalling the prophecies of the Messiah and the longing of God's people for His coming. Purple symbolizes penance, preparation, and royalty, reminding us that we are preparing to welcome Christ, the King.

Second Week of Advent – The Bethlehem Candle (Purple)

Peace

The second candle signifies peace, as we prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts and lives. It reminds us of John the Baptist's call to repentance and inner renewal. Lighting the second purple candle reminds us to prepare our hearts and wait with faith for Christ's coming.

Third Week of Advent – The Shepherd’s Candle (Rose)

Joy

The third candle is rose, marking Gaudete Sunday
 (“Rejoice” Sunday).

The color rose symbolizes joy and light amid the penitential season, as
 we rejoice that Christ’s coming is near.

The shift from purple to rose expresses the Church’s
 joyful anticipation of Christmas.

Fourth Week of Advent – The Angel’s Candle (Purple)

Love

The final candle returns to purple, symbolizing the love of God made
 known through Jesus and the final preparation of our hearts before
 Christmas.

It recalls Mary’s loving “yes” to God and the fulfillment of His
 promise.

The Christ Candle (optional) (White)

Christ Is Born!

Many wreaths include a fifth white candle in the center, lit on Christmas
 Eve or Christmas Day.

White symbolizes purity, light, and victory—celebrating the birth of
 Jesus, the Light of the World.