

# First Sunday of Advent



*The Advent wreath with its evergreen foliage reminds us of God's faithfulness to us. Each Sunday we will light a candle on the wreath to mark the approach of Christmas.*

## **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

We ask you, God our Creator, to bless this Advent wreath. Bless the green circle of evergreen leaves. In a world dulled to your presence and forgetful of your Word, may this circle speak to us of your everlasting love.

Bless the candles on our wreath. At this time, when the bleakness of winter and the suffering of so many weighs heavily on us, may these candles remind us that Jesus, your Son born among us, comes to scatter the darkness.

May our lighting of these candles form us into a watchful people, attentive to your Word. Wake us from our sleep and from our forgetful and unreflective ways that, at the coming of your Son, we may welcome him with joy.

## **Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

As we light our first Advent candle, may we open our hearts to the light of Christ. May He come into the din of our inner confusion, into the rush of our continual hurry, into the pressure of our endless activity. May he come and come quickly, Amen.