**Assembly Prayer base on an Advent Wreath.**

**Opening Prayer**

God our Father as we begin our Advent journey we do so with great expectation for the coming of Christ this Christmas. Advent is a time filled with expectation as we await to hear and experience “God living among us. As we await the coming of Jesus this Christmas, may we have expectant ears and hearts so as to hear what your Spirit hopes to give birth to in this school community this Advent season. We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Blessing of the Advent Wreath.**

God our Father we ask your blessing on this Advent Wreath. An unbroken circle of evergreens. In our Advent journey may we strive to forge bonds of unity and love in our school community. With each passing week our Advent wreath will grow ever brighter. May the light of your Spirit show this school community the path we need to walk if Christ is to be born in our hearts and in our school community this Advent season.

We ask God’s blessing on this wreath +. May it be a symbol of God’s unbroken promise to always walk with us His people. May our faith give us the courage and openness we need to engage this Advent season with hearts and minds open to experiencing something new. May God open our eyes to see those living on the margins of school life and on the margins of our wider community; those in our community who have to take shelter in our modern day mangers. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to love. Like the Advent Wreath may we strive to include everybody in our circle of friends the Advent season.

We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Week 1: Lighting of our first candle a candle of hope**

We will hear in the scriptures today that they will

*They will hammer their swords into ploughshares,*

*their spears into sickles.*

*Nation will not lift sword against nation,*

*there will be no more training for war.”*

We light our first candle, a candle of hope. (*Pause while the candle is being lit*)

May we have faith to believe in God’s hope filled promise for each one of us. This Advent may we continually pray for a spirit of hope and peace in our School Community and in our world. For it is in walking together that we learn to encourage each other. May expectant hope enable us to continually listen for the Spirit of God in our midst; especially the spirit that encourages and empowers us. May this school community grow in its ability to listen to new and alternative voices in our midst. May we turn form pessimism to hope, for arguments to agreement and from being estranged to allowing love and reconciliation to grow in our hearts this Advent season. May our school be a place of hope filled promise and peace.

We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Week 2: Lighting our Second Candle a candle of love**

We will hear in the scriptures today:

*The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid,*

*calf and lion feed together, with a little child to lead them….*

*They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,*

We light our second candle, a candle of love. (*Pause while the candle is being lit*).

Guided by the light of God’s Spirit we continue on our pilgrim way to Christmas. May we have ears to hear the voices of those who are shy or less confident in our class or year group. May the strong people in this school never abuse their power and may the vulnerable always receive protection. May we create a school community in which common ground can be found. With the coming of Jesus may we be enabled to live our lives in a lifegiving ways. May our School be a place where no hurt or harm is ever done. May our school be a place where nobody feels threatened and where everybody has a place.

We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Week 3: Lighting of our third candle a candle of joy.**

We will read in the scriptures today:

*Strengthen all weary hands,*

*steady all trembling knees*

*and say to all faint hearts,*

*‘Courage! Do not be afraid.*

We light our third candle, a candle of joy. (*Pause while the candle is being lit*).

We give thanks for the journey we have made and for the small steps we have taken together as a school community this Advent. There is joy at seeing the destination of Jesus’s birth coming into view. As we continue to journey towards Christmas, may we rejoice in the fact that God walks by our side as our friend and companion. He strengthens us and He support us. May we be willing to give support to those in our midst who are in need encouragement. May we realise that in journeying together we not only encounter Jesus but we will also open the possibility of encounter one another, in new and supportive ways. May we experience the real joy of seeing Jesus in each other this week. May this inspire us as a school community to continually give and accept support to one another. May we strive for a personal encounter with Jesus this Advent for He continually encourages us to have courage, and for us not to be afraid.

We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Week 4: Lighting of our fourth candle of peace and prayerful preparation**

We will read in the scriptures today:

*She will conceive and give birth to a son*

*and they will call him Emmanuel,*

*a name which means ‘God-is-with-us.’*

We light our fourth candle, a candle of prayerful preparation. (*Pause while the candle is being lit*).

As we draw near to Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus, we take time to do our last minute checks. We like to make sure that we haven’t forgotten anything or anybody for our upcoming Christmas celebrations. May we have the courage to stretch out a hand of friendship to somebody before we break up for the Christmas Holidays. May we give time to acknowledge and savour those relationships that make new life stir within us. For like Mary if we truly believe and trust in God, and in one another, Christ will be born in our midst this Christmas. Our God who is always with us. May we as a school community be always there for one another this week.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Lighting of our White Candle – the Christ Candle – Journeying on in the spirit of Christmas**

We will read in the scriptures today:

*“No one has ever seen God;*

*it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart,*

*who has made him known.”*

We light our final candle, our white Christ candle. (*Pause while the candle is being lit*).

We give thanks that God not only chosen to dwell among us, but that he came as one of us. God has put himself in our shoes as it were. As we continue as a school community to journey together towards Christmas, may we follow the example of Jesus. May we always be open to listening to one another. In our listening, may we like Jesus be willing to place ourselves in the shoes of others. May we move from having opinions about others to empathising with them and their lot. May we live this Christmas in a spirit that enables others to know and believe that God is truly with us as our friend and companion. And by our actions, may others experience God’s love for them made know by how we treated and included them in our school community.

We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord.