

THE ADVENT WREATH is a tradition in our Advent Worship each year. It is a “wreath” with five candles, surrounded by evergreens.

The wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.

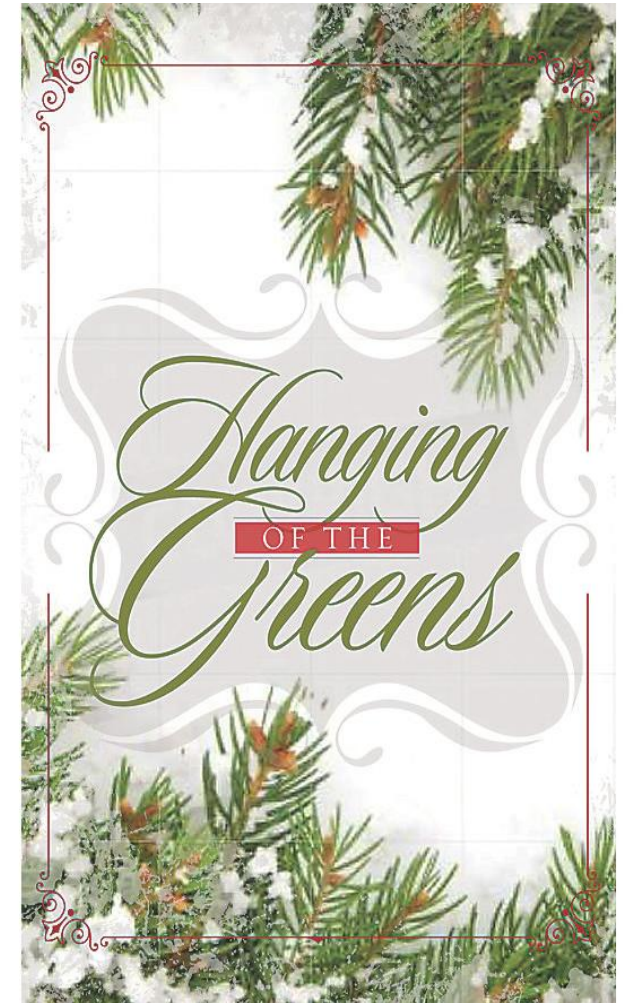
While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther.

Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four colored candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi & the birth of Christ.

In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle. Other churches prefer three purple with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy. The center candle is white and is called the Christ Candle. The central location of the Christ Candle reminds us that God’s incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of who we are, called to be as followers of Jesus.



LeRoy United Methodist Church
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Sunday,
November 29, 2020

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