



## The Advent Wreath.

The circle of the wreath reminds us of God, who is eternity and endless mercy; the green speaks of the hope we have in God, of renewal, newness and eternal life; the candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus and our continued journey towards Christmas; the four outer candles represent the four weeks of waiting and preparation, which in turn symbolise the four centuries between the prophet Malachi and the Birth of Christ.

**The second candle – the candle of Peace, or the “Bethlehem candle”, reminds us that God appeared to us in a humble manner as the prince of peace.**

## Collect

Living God,  
you called your people out of Egypt and gave them the covenant;  
Prepare our hearts to hear your call,  
so that we may receive with joy the gospel of your Son  
and be your faithful people,  
now and forever.  
**Amen**

## Reflection questions:

- As we live our daily lives, do we live with an awareness of the coming king?
- Is there anything that would help us to be more aware?
- How can we prepare ourselves as individuals and as a church for the coming of the king?
- What do you find is the greatest challenge in the apparent delay in the coming of the king?

