



11TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION P. H. WRIGHT, EPISCOPAL PRESIDENT

Advent Season 2018

Sunday, December 2 – Monday, December 24

What Are the Four Sundays of Advent?

If you've ever struggled to keep the four Sundays of Advent straight, you're not alone. For hundreds of years, faithful Christians have observed the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day as a special time to prepare their hearts, but these practices have changed over time and place. The first mention of Advent is found in ancient writings dating back to the sixth century, with some anecdotal mentions as early as AD 380 at the Spanish Council of Saragossa! So not only is it an old Christian practice, but it's also a very personal one, as churches have adapted the practice to suit their local parishes.

So while there's no authoritative guide to Advent, we can find some commonalities in the ways churches have practiced the observance of Advent throughout history.

Generally, the themes that correspond to each week fall into these categories:

Week 1: Hope (or promise)

Week 2: Preparation (waiting or prophecy)

Week 3: Joy (or peace)

Week 4: Love (or adoration)

[Click/Select to read Advent Lectionary Scriptures](#)

Remember in all things, remain prayerful and pray for one another.

~ Mary Brown Silva, Episcopal DPR ~