

**Walk with the Shepherds to Bethlehem
Meal Prayer from Advent to Christmas**

[Materials Needed: Prayer card, Advent wreath, matches.]

All: O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Leader: Advent is here. Let us thank God for the gift of this day as we await the celebration of Christmas. (Each person says a prayer of thanks to God for one or two good things from the day.)

Candle of Promise (1st Week of Advent): I light the Candle of Promise because God made a covenant to our ancestors to save us from sin and evil, and give us peace. This promise has been fulfilled in Jesus. (Light 1 candle.)

Candle of Hope (2nd Week of Advent): I light the Candle of Hope because God's beloved son, Jesus, born at Bethlehem, gives us everlasting life. (Light 2 candles.)

Candle of Joy (3rd Week of Advent): I light the Candle of Joy because God's beloved Son, Jesus, born of Mary, is our friend. He is "Emmanuel," "God with us." (Light 3 candles.)

Candle of Love (4th Sunday of Advent): I light the Candle of Love because God so loved the world that He gave his only son, not to condemn the world, but to save it. (Light 4 candles.)

All: Bless us, O Lord and these, thy gifts...