

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES—CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT

I think Christmas Eve is the most wonderful night of all!

Soon it will be Jesus' birthday, and tonight we get to light all of the candles on the Advent wreath.

The first candle reminds us of the peace Jesus brings to us and our world.

(Light one purple candle)

The second candle stands for the **hope** we have in Jesus.

(Light a second purple candle)

The pink candle is easy to remember – it stands for **joy**, especially Mary's joy.

(Light the pink candle)

The fourth candle tells us of God's **love**. God wouldn't have sent his only Son into the world if He didn't love us a lot.

(Light the last purple candle)

Now we almost hold our breath as we get ready to light the fifth and last candle, the white candle. It's called the **Christ Candle**. None of the other candles would mean anything if not for this one. But Jesus *was* born – the Light of the World.

He brings a peace like no other. He gives us hope in every hard time. He gives us our deepest joy, and he unwraps the love of God for us all. This night, and tomorrow, we celebrate his birthday. *The light shines in the darkness!*

(LIGHT THE WHITE CANDLE)

Let's pray. Lord Jesus, thank you for leaving your throne to show us the Father, to die for our sins, to become our Savior and Lord and Friend. This night we declare our thanks and devotion. You gave your life for us, and now we give you our lives and love. Happy Birthday! Amen.