

Symbolism of the Advent wreath

A beautiful Advent wreath was donated to our church this year. It serves to help us as a congregation to focus on our Advent worship during the four Advent Sundays that started on 29 November 2009.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful.

The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. It signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The prickly pine leaves remind us of the crown of thorns.

Any pine cones or seeds symbolize life and resurrection.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of the soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world by becoming a true man and who was victorious over sin and death through his own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four Advent candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, before Christmas. They are named the candles of Hope, of Peace, of Joy and of Love. The progressive lighting of the candles every Advent Sunday symbolises the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world as a babe, and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light of the candles signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at lunch or dinner time after the blessing of the food on Advent Sundays and serves as an exciting tool to educate children about Advent, Christmas and the Kingdom of our Saviour who was born more than 2000 years ago.