

Sunday 12th December 2021

Third Sunday in Advent



Gaudete Sunday

Today is *Gaudete Sunday*! Advent, as we have seen, is a "getting ready" season and people used to fast in this penitential season (go without rich foods as a sign of sorrow for their wrongdoing and as a way of drawing closer to God in prayer). *Gaudete Sunday* was a bit of a break day – a day of refreshment – during this time. So it was – and still is – a day for rejoicing! We also rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return!

Today we light the pink candle in the Advent wreath. This is because pink, or rose, is a liturgical colour for joy. "*Gaudete*" means "rejoice!" in Latin.

Our first reading today comes from St Paul's letter to the Philippians. These beautiful words may also form the introduction to the Eucharist on the Third Sunday in Advent and carry a very important message for us all. **REJOICE!**

Philippians 4: 4-7:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

🙏 Our prayer for the lighting of the third candle is on the weekly sheet, but here is an alternative prayer, which makes a good daily prayer for this week:

Lord Jesus,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
Help us to be ready to welcome you.
Amen.

Advent Word Search

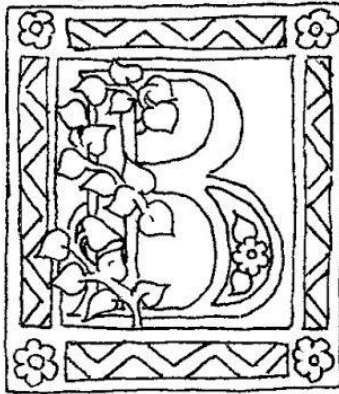
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Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



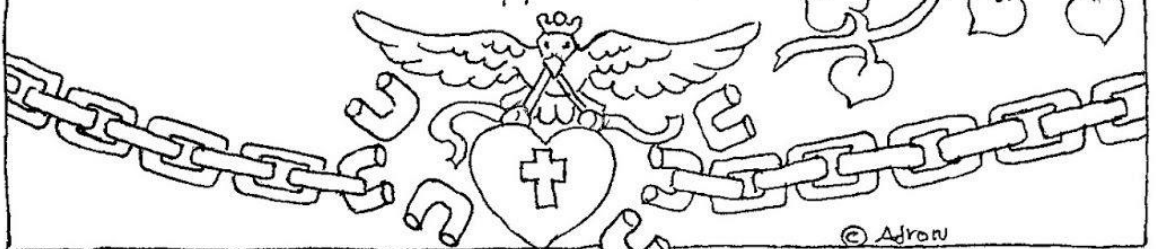


Do not be anxious
for nothing
but in everything

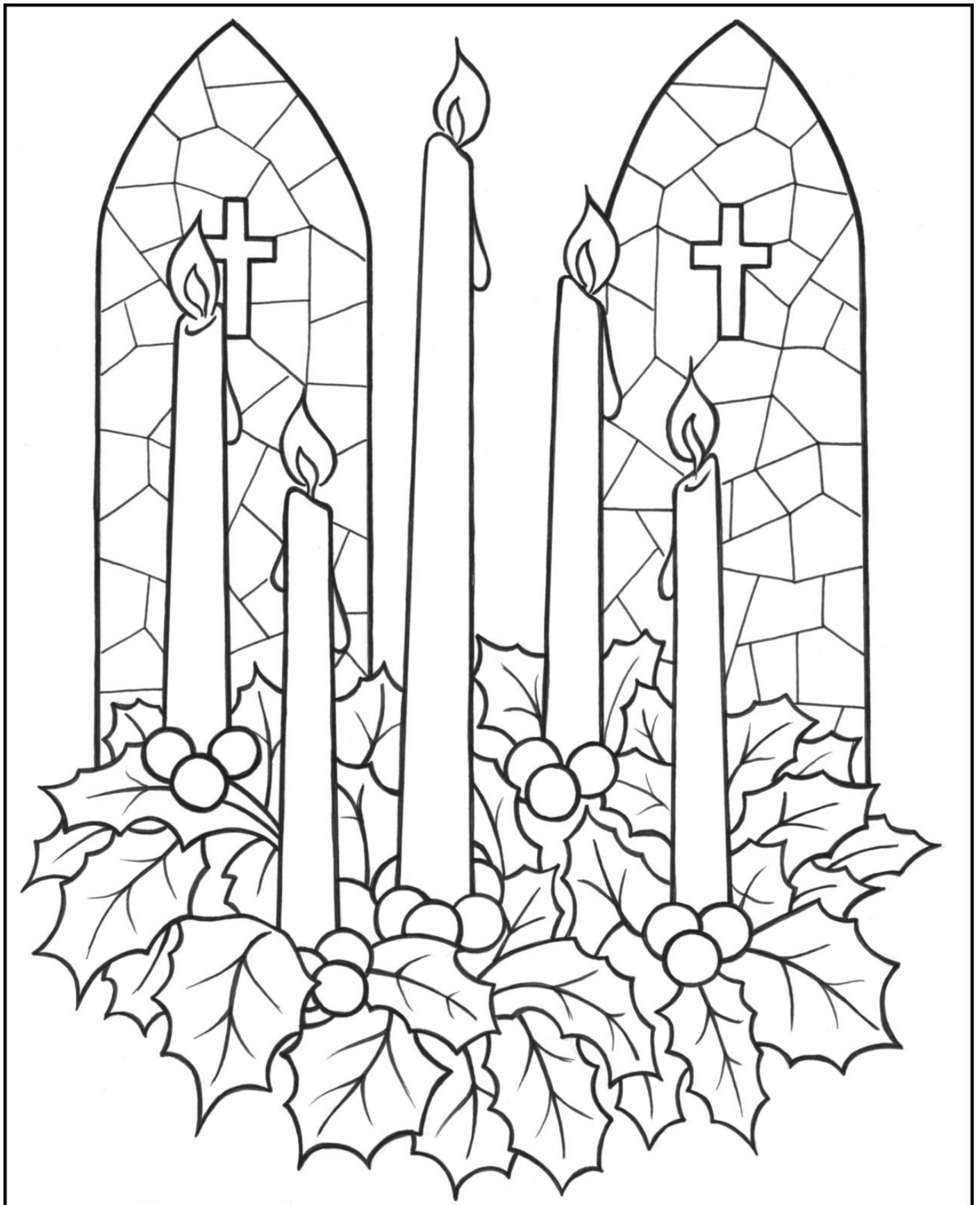


by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving, let your
requests be made known
unto God, and the peace of
God, which surpasses all
understanding, shall guard
your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7



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