



ADVENT WREATH CELEBRATION WEEK FOUR – MARY

Leader: We gather today to celebrate the final week of Advent. As we light four candles of our wreath, we are reminded that God is with us always, helping us to shape our lives and enter into new beginnings. Our focus today is on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

- Lighter:** (Lights all four candles)
Lord, during this Advent season we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus so that we can say our “Yes” to him as did your mother. Help us to be the people you created us to be now and throughout this coming year.
- Leader:** Let us sing the hymn “Hail Mary: Gentle Woman.” (Glory and Praise #20).
- Reader 1:** “The Holy Spirit will come upon you” the angel answered, “and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God.” “I am the handmaid of the Lord,” said Mary. “Let what you have said be done to me.” And the angel left her.
- Reader 2:** Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.
- All:** Come, Lord Jesus.
- Reader 2:** Son of God, save us from our sins.
- All:** Come, Lord Jesus.
- Reader 2:** Son of Mary, deepen our love.
- All:** Come, Lord Jesus.
- Reader 2:** Bring hope into the lives of all people.
- All:** Come, Lord Jesus.
- Reader 2:** Give your peace to all nations.
- All:** Come, Lord Jesus.
- Reader 2:** Bring unity among all who believe in you.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Reader 2: Bless us as we gather in your name.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Reader 2: Lord Jesus, help us be aware that you are with us always.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Let us pray:

May Christ give us his peace and joy; let us share these gifts with others. May we continue to follow Christ as Mary did: hearing the Word of God, keeping it in our hearts, and doing the will of God. Together let us pray the prayer of Mary.

All: Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Leader: As we go forth in hope of the coming of our Savior, let us sing the second verse of "Hail Mary; Gentle Woman."

