

There are many ways of learning about God. In Native American tradition, knowledge of the Four Sacred Directions was given by the Creator to teach us right ways to live; to “walk the good road.” This Advent, we will look at Christian and Native traditions side by side, giving us a new window into this holy season.

ADVENT 1                      Candle of Prophecy / The Eastern Direction  
(Light)

The first candle of the Advent wreath is the Candle of Prophecy. God spoke through the prophets, promising them a Savior.

With this light, we honor the Eastern Direction, the home of new light. When we see the sunrise we know the Creator has given us a new day with new possibilities. The Direction of East teaches us to place our trust in the prophecy of salvation.

Creator God, whose prophets foretold the coming of Jesus, bless us as we turn to the East, remember the prophets, and await his coming. Amen.

ADVENT 2                      Candle of Bethlehem / The Southern Direction  
(Energy)

The second candle on the Advent wreath is the Candle of Bethlehem. Jesus was born not in a palace, but in an ordinary little town. He comes to us, too, in ordinary places, among ordinary people.

With this light, we honor the Southern Direction, the place of the spirit, the home of warmth and energy. The South teaches us to turn our energy to living in a good way among the people of our community.

Creator God, who brought Jesus to life in an ordinary town, bless us as we turn to the South and dedicate our energy to living with honor in our community. Amen.

ADVENT 3                      Candle of the Shepherds / The Western Direction  
(Emotions)

The third candle on the Advent wreath is the Shepherds Candle. It wasn't the rich and famous who came to worship the infant Jesus, but shepherds, who lived among the poor. As we light this candle, we remember the poor in our community; those Jesus loved.

With this light, we honor the Western Direction, the place of water, the home of emotions. The Direction of West teaches us to allow compassion to flow through us, as water flows down the River. As water unites all, we are united in God's love.

Creator God, as the shepherds felt your love when they received the good news, bless us as we turn to the West, feeling the power of your love for all people. Amen.

ADVENT 4                      Candle of the Angels / The Northern Direction (The Earth)

The fourth candle of the Advent wreath is the Angels Candle. Angels announced the birth of Jesus, uniting the faithful around the earth in praise of God.

With this light, we honor the Northern Direction, the place of the earth, the home of the physical world. The Direction of North teaches us to thank the Creator for placing us physically on this earth, his holy creation.

Creator God, thank you for the angels who announced joy to the world. Bless us as we stand in the North, giving thanks for the joyful gift of our life on earth. Amen.

