

~ HERBAL ADVENT WREATH ~

A wreath on the door is a sign of welcome, a sign that guests are expected. Considered the beginning of the Christian Year, Advent is a time to welcome God's coming in a season of preparation and expectation.

An herbal Advent wreath adds fragrant symbolism to this season where the church waits expectantly at time's front door. More than decorative, its ingredients acknowledge the rich meaning of the Nativity story. On a door the herbal wreath is a sign of hope; among the Advent candles it is a sign of expectation.

ROSEMARY for remembrance.

"Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." Luke 1:48

LAVENDAR for virtue.

"He will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:8

HYSSOP for purity.

"May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

RUE for God's grace and human repentance.

"Grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:7

THYME for the herb of the manger.

"This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:12

ARTEMESIA's golden flowerlet represents the gifts of the Magi..

"Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:11b

LADY'S BED STRAW for the lining of the manger where the Holy Child slept.

"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom: and the favor of God was upon him." Luke 2:40

COSTMARY for everlasting life.

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as children ... and if a child you are then also an heir through God." Galatians 4:4-7 selected