

Light *OF THE* World



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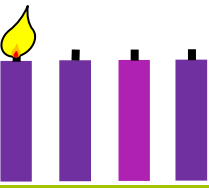
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First Sunday of Advent



Advent is a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus.



Luke 21: 34-36

The gospel story is telling us that we must be ready when Jesus comes again, but that we cannot be exactly sure when that will be, so we must try to be ready all the time.

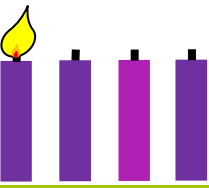


When we look around, we sometimes see people who need our help.

Let's remember this.

This Advent, let's look out especially for people who have been forced to leave everything behind to find somewhere safe to live.





“I tell you solemnly, nowhere in Israel have I found faith like this.”

Matthew 8:10

In today's reading we hear of a Roman officer who has so much faith in Jesus, he believes Jesus can heal him, without even being in the house. That's a lot of faith!

Faith has been really helpful to many of us this year. In difficult times, having faith and trust in God can be a comfort and support. How has faith helped you this year?

Advent is a time of preparation, having faith that Jesus will come at Christmas. In today's activity, you can write a promise or an intention for Advent on one of the [templates](#) as you prepare for Christmas.



Find out about today's World Gift
[Water for a family](#)





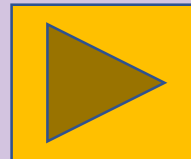
At that time Jesus was filled with joy by the Holy Spirit and said,
“Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you”

Luke 10:21

Even though this has been a difficult year in many ways, it's still important to remember to thank the people we are grateful to. Who has helped you this year? How could you show that you are grateful to them?



Today's activity is:
Make your own Advent wreath



Find out about today's World Gift
[Teach someone to read](#)





“I feel sorry for all these people; they have been with me for three days now and have nothing to eat.”

Matthew 15:32



In today's scripture, Jesus feels sympathy for a group of people who have been listening to him and who are hungry. He takes action to help them, turning loaves and fish into enough food for them all. How can we take action as well as feeling sympathy for others?



God of life,
We give thanks for all those people who are kind to us. Help us to be the best people that we can be in preparation for the coming of your Son, Jesus.
Amen

Find out about today's World Gift
[Emergency food](#)





The wise man built his house on rock.
Matthew 7:24



Today's scripture comes from a well known parable about the man who built his house on the rock, and the man who built his house on the sand. Jesus is our rock – how can we build on him in our lives?

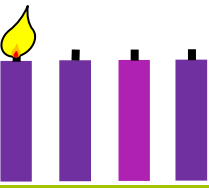
Advent is a season of preparation, expectation and hope. What can you find out about how people celebrate Advent around the world?



Today is our [Advent live assembly!](#)
Be sure to tune in at 9.30am or watch again to reflect on the season of Advent and hear about children across England and Wales preparing to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.

Find out about today's World Gift [Emergency shelter](#)





The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Psalm 27:1



Find out about today's World Gift
[Solar lamp](#)

In today's psalm, we celebrate that the Lord is a light to each of us. He shines as a light to show us the way and guide us in our lives. [How can we share this light and be a light to others?](#)

We pray for the Lord's light
to guide us.
[Find our prayer films here](#)





Whenever you plant your crops, the Lord will send rain to make them grow and will give you a rich harvest.

Isaiah 30:23



Find out about today's World Gift
[Vegetable garden](#)



We trust that God provides for us in many ways. But we often have to put in something of ourselves that the Lord can use to nourish and grow. How can we sow the seeds of doing the right thing in our lives?

Today's activity is: [Advent word search](#)





Second Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

Today we heard a story about John the Baptist. John told everybody that Jesus was coming and that they needed to get ready. John warns the people coming to be baptised that they need to change their lives for the better. This will help them to be ready for Jesus.



If we change our lives for the better and try to do the right things, we can help to make the world a happier place for other people too.

How are you going to change your life for the better this Advent?

What will you do for others so that you are ready when Jesus comes?





Jesus saw how much faith they had.

Luke 5:20



In today's scripture a group of men helped their friend to see Jesus. Jesus saw the strength of their faith and their friendship, and healed the man. How can we support our friends and help others?



God of life,
We give thanks for all those people who are kind to us. Help us to be the best people that we can be in preparation for the coming of your Son, Jesus.

Amen

Find out about today's World Gift
[Help a llama farmer](#)





"Your Father in heaven does not want any of these
little ones to be lost."

Matthew 18:14



Find out about today's World Gift
[The goat that gives](#)

Today's scripture tells the parable of the lost sheep. The good shepherd cares for all of his sheep, so that if just one gets lost he goes to find it. Everyone of them is important, just as everyone in the world is important to God. How can we show that everyone is special today?

Today's activity: You could design a crib scene, complete with sheep and/or goats to celebrate the coming of the birth of Jesus at Christmas.





The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour.
Luke 1:30

In today's scripture we are reminded of how Mary is chosen from the very beginning of her existence to be the Mother of our Lord. But this does not mean that Mary's life is easy. She must have courage to say "yes" to what it is that God is asking of her.

How have we had to be brave this year?
How can we show courage in the future?

Today's activity:
[Jar of Hope](#)



Find out about today's World Gift
[Spread the news](#)





I will make rivers flow among barren hills and springs of water run in the valleys.

Isaiah 41:18



We have all learned about the importance of water this year for washing our hands. Sadly, in some parts of the world people do not have the things we have. We remember our global neighbours who don't have access to clean and safe water.



Today's activity:

Why not use recycle some paper to decorate your home in preparation for Christmas? How many different patterns of snowflake can you make?

- Step one: Fold you sheet of paper into four or eight.
- Step two: Use a pair of scissors to carefully cut patterns along the folded edges.
- Step three: Unfold your sheet and admire your handiwork!

Find out about today's
World Gift
Water on wheels





“I am the Lord your God, the one who wants to teach you for your own good and direct you in the way you should go.”

Isaiah 48:17



Find out about today's World Gift
Gift of play

Sometimes we can feel lost in life, or not sure of the way ahead. In those times, it is important to remember that God shows the way. How can we make sure we are listening for this, and that we try to follow where God leads?

Today's activity:

You can design your own Christmas jumper using this [template](#).

Think about what is important about Christmas and how we can wait in hopeful expectation for the gift of Jesus to us all.





People did not recognise him.
Matthew 17:12

In today's scripture, Jesus talks about the prophet Elijah and how people didn't recognise how special he was. Sometimes we can take special people for granted, or forget how special someone is to us. How can you show someone that they are special to you today?



Find out about today's World Gift
[School starter pack](#)



Today's activity:
[World Gifts word search](#)





Third Sunday of Advent

Today is the **Third Sunday of Advent**

Luke 3: 10-18

In today's reading, people ask John the Baptist how to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

He says that sharing is one of the most important things.

If we share the light of Jesus we can see so much more!

If we share the light of Jesus we can light up the whole world!

How do you think we can share the light of Jesus with others?

Generous God,

We thank you for all the good things that you have given us.

Help us to follow the example of Jesus,

to care for others

and to bring good news to people living in poverty.

Amen

Did you know today is Gaudete Sunday?

We light the pink candle, representing joy.

How could you bring joy to others this Advent?





Teach me your ways, O Lord; make them known to me.
Psalm 25:4



In today's scripture, we ask God to show us the way. Even when we stray from the right path, God is there to guide us back. Can you remember a time when you didn't follow the right path? How did you find your way back to doing the right thing?



God of life,
We give thanks for all those people who are kind to us. Help us to be the best people that we can be in preparation for the coming of your Son, Jesus.
Amen

Find out about today's World Gift
[Happy queen bee](#)





"Which one of the two did what his father wanted?"

Matthew 21:31



Find out about today's World Gift
[Spread the news](#)

Today we hear how two brothers acted on what their father said in different ways. God our Father speaks to us – are we always listening to his message?

Sending messages at Christmas time is an important part of celebrating the season. Why not design, create and write your own Christmas cards for people today?





Jesus healed many people

Luke 7:21



Staying healthy is something that has been on all of our minds this year, even more than usual. In today's scripture we hear how Jesus helped others stay healthy too. While we may not be able to heal people ourselves, we can support others when they are feeling under the weather. How could you help someone who is feeling ill today?



Loving God,
As we wait for the birth of Jesus at Christmas,
we give thanks for the wonderful gift of new life.
We pray for all parents around the world and for their children,
that they will be healthy, happy and love one another.
Amen

Find out about today's World Gift
[Keep clean kit](#)





The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end; I will keep for ever my promise of peace.

Isaiah 54:10



In today's scripture we are reminded how God's love and promise of peace will never end. Living in peace and working together with others is part of following Jesus' example every day.

How will you show peace and work together with others today?



God of love,
We pray for peace in our world, and an end to war.
Instead of hatred, let there be love.
Shelter your children and protect us.
Guide us and keep us from harm,
so we can build a world of love and live our lives in peace.
Amen.

Find out about today's World
Gift

[Forest school](#)





Let there be peace upon the mountains and goodness on the hills.

Psalm 72:3



Find out about today's World Gift
[Weatherproof crops](#)

In Pope Francis letter to the world, *Laudato Si'*, he told us that we must care for the Earth, our common home. We look to God to help us, with peace upon the mountains and goodness on the hills, but must help ourselves and our global neighbours by looking after the world. What can we do to care for the Earth, our common home, today?

Decorating our houses is fun during Advent, preparing our homes to welcome Jesus at Christmas. We can do this, and look after the planet by using recycled materials to make decorations. Why not try it out today?





She will have a son and you will name him Jesus.
Matthew 1:21

Today we hear of Joseph receiving good news – Mary, his wife, was expecting a very important baby! It is just over a week left until Christmas Day. How can we make sure we are prepared to receive the good news of Jesus today, and in the next week?

Celebrate the good news we are expecting and preparing for in this season of Advent with an acrostic poem. Start each line with the letters ADVENT and write how you are feeling, or what you are doing to prepare for the coming of Jesus.



Find out about today's World Gift
[Help a refugee child](#)





Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him
John.
Luke 1:13



Find out about today's World Gift
[Healthy mum and baby](#)

This season of Advent we have heard about the life of John the Baptist. He was very important in preparing people for the gift of Jesus to the world. We continue to wait in hopeful expectation to hear again and celebrate the Christmas story next week.

Today's activity:
[World Gifts word search](#)





Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Luke 1:39-45

We hear in today's scripture about how Mary visited her relative Elizabeth to share her good news. We can share the good news with our friends and family. Who can you share good news with today?



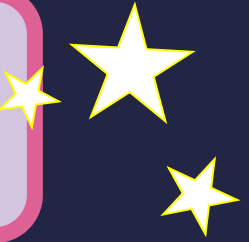
God of all,
fill us with joy at the coming of your Son, as Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy. Help us to spread this joy and your love by caring for all our brothers and sisters around the world.
Amen





Sing and shout for joy, people of Israel! Rejoice with all your heart, Jerusalem!

Zephaniah 3:14



It's nearly time to joyfully welcome the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World at Christmas. We have been preparing throughout Advent and looking forward to the celebrations. Sharing the expectation of joy is another part of the season – who can you share the joy with today?



Saying thank you is an important part of Christmas too. We can say thank you for many things this year – our parents or guardians looking after us, teachers continuing to teach us in some of the hardest times, friends for staying in touch. Today, why not write a letter, postcard or email to someone to say thank you for something this year.

Find out about today's World Gift
[Soap stickers](#)





He has filled the hungry with good things.

Luke 1:53



In today's scripture we hear Mary's joyful song, the Magnificat. She is celebrating the gift that God has given her, but also has provided to the whole world. We are getting ready to celebrate Christmas, but let's also remember those who provide for us today. Who has given you 'good things'?

Find out about today's World Gift
[Marvellous moo cow](#)

Today's activity is:
[Gingerbread biscuit recipe](#)





His name is John.
Luke 1:63



In today's scripture we hear how Zechariah gave his son the name the angel had told him to, even though he had lost the ability to talk. He trusted that God would keep his promise and give him his voice back – and he did! How can we show our trust in God's promises today?



Find out about today's World Gift
[Birth certificate](#)

As Christmas draws close, what can you find out about how Christmas is celebrated around the world?





“To give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow dark as death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1:79



Christmas is nearly here! Thank you for using the calendar this Advent, and we hope you are looking forward to tomorrow's joyful celebration as we welcome Jesus, the light of the world. Take a moment today to reflect on the past few weeks.

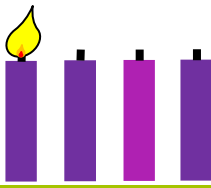
Loving God,
As we wait for the birth of Jesus at Christmas,
we give thanks for the wonderful gift of new life.
We pray for all parents around the world and for their children,
that they will be healthy, happy and love one another.
Amen





Happy Christmas!





Make your own Advent wreath



The Advent wreath is a special symbol.

The evergreen leaves mean everlasting life.

The circle of the wreath (with no beginning and no end) reminds us of the eternity of God and the four candles are the four weeks of Advent.

Draw or make an Advent wreath:

1. Cut a hole in the middle of a paper plate
2. Draw around your hands on green recycled paper and ask others to do the same
3. Stick the cut-out hands around the outside of the paper plate to make the leaves
4. Make four candles by rolling paper into tubes (3 purple and 1 pink)
5. Attach a paper flame to one candle on each Sunday of Advent

