

*Jesus in our midst - An activity for the home.*

By the fourth Sunday of Advent the preparations for Christmas are well underway.

We encourage you to wrap up warmly and take a drive or a walk to take in the beauty of the Christmas lights as you make your way to a local Church.

At the Church we invite you to take time to place your intentions before God and to ask for blessing on the close of this Advent season.

*Prayer Time at Home*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

*(Luke 1:39-45)*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

From The Jerusalem Bible © 1966 by Barron Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.



*Music Suggestion for the  
'Pause for Thoughts'  
God With Us  
by All Sons & Daughters*



*Music Suggestion for the  
'Pause for Thoughts'  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
by Enya*

*A family member lights the second purple candle - the candle of love.*

Today we light the second purple candle, representing love. We prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and hold within our hearts the abundance of love that our God brings to this world.

God of love,

during the Advent season, when life is busy and excitement is in the air, we take time to think about the gift of the birth of Jesus.

We reflect on the great love you have for us that will be shown through your Son, Jesus.

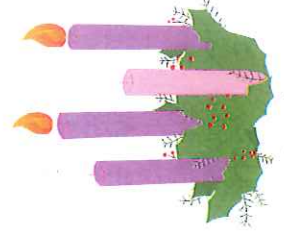
May the light of this candle reflect the light that resides within each of us, the love that we can bring to this world, and the healing we can offer those who are suffering.

Amen.

*Advent Litany*

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.  
You are light in our darkness.  
Son of God, save us from our sins.  
Son of Mary, deepen our love.  
Bring hope into the lives of all people.  
Give your peace to all nations.  
Be the joy of all who love you.  
Bring unity among all who believe in you.  
Bless us as we gather here in your name.  
Lord Jesus, stay with us always.

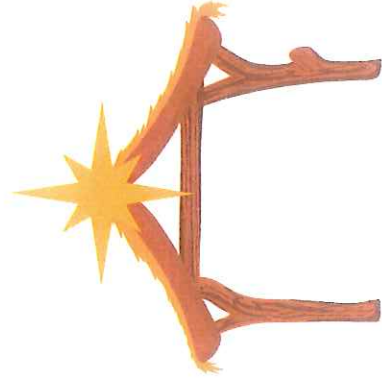
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
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Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus.



Let us pray. May Christ give us his peace and joy and let us share them with others.

All peace and glory are his for ever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



*A Prayer for Love and Service*

Lord, you created us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Please show us how to love you with all our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves. Teach us to be practical about loving one another in you and for you and as you desire. Show us our immediate neighbour today; the need of others is your call to our attention.

Remind us that you count as done to you what we do for one another, and that our turning away from one another is really turning our backs on you. Make us know, love and serve you in this life and be happy for ever in the next in union with all our brothers and sisters. Amen.