

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



1st Sunday in Advent

27 November 2022 - Year A

“Stay awake, you must be ready.”

Something to Think About

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a Latin word which means ‘coming’. When Advent comes, we know that Christmas is not far away! It is an exciting time as we look forward to the joy of Jesus’ birth at Christmas. What do you like most about Christmas?

The Story

Jesus is telling his disciples to be on their guard and to be ready. Jesus promised that he would come back one day, and we need to be ready for him. But how do we get ready? Jesus says that we should always be ready to help others, to forgive, to be kind and friendly. We never know what might happen, so we should be ready to do what God wants.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man appears, things will be just as they were when Noah lived. People were eating, drinking, and getting married right up to the day that the flood came and Noah went into the big boat. They didn't know anything was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man appears.

"Two men will be in the same field, but only one will be taken. The other will be left. Two women will be together grinding grain, but only one will be taken. The other will be left.

"So be on your guard!
You don't know when your Lord will come.
Homeowners never know when a thief is coming,
and they are always on guard to keep one from breaking in.
Always be ready!
You don't know when the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video:
[One Day Jesus Will Return](#)



Group Discussion

Christmas is a time for gift-giving. What can you do to prepare for this wonderful celebration? Now imagine you are Jesus. What gifts would you (as Jesus) want to give to your family and friends? What wonderful surprises could you give to people who are sick, sad, hungry, or lonely?

Praying For Others

Leader: As we begin this season of Advent, let us bring our hopes and dreams to God.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will be ready to follow Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for healing for all who are sick. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for peace in our world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for joyful hearts as we get ready for Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will be kind and friendly to others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,

Fill our hearts with joy as we await the birth of your son, Jesus, at Christmas time. Help us always be ready to show kindness to others.

Amen.

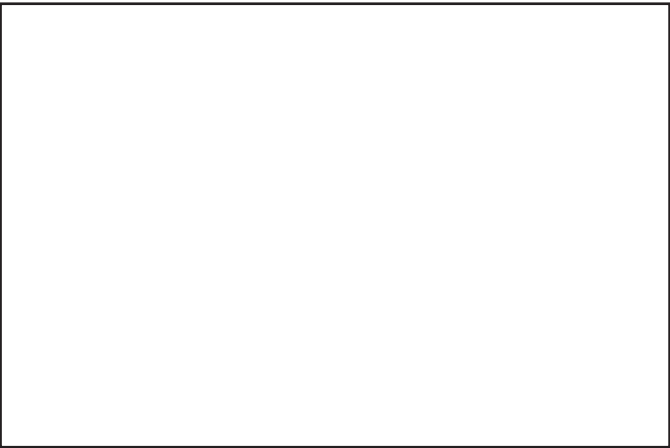
Group Activity

ADVENT PRAYER BOOK

You will need: a template for each child, coloured pencils, scissors.

1. Talk to the children about people they know who may need their prayers, people who might be sad or need God's help.
2. Ask the children to draw (or write about) people they wish to pray for in each of the prayerbook pages.
3. To assemble, please watch this [YouTube clip](#). It is a simple process, but attempting to describe the process in words can easily lead to confusion.
4. Children can take these prayer books home and use them throughout Advent to pray for others.

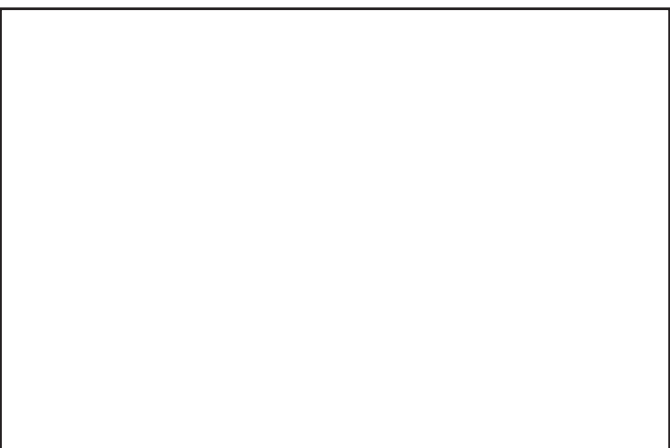




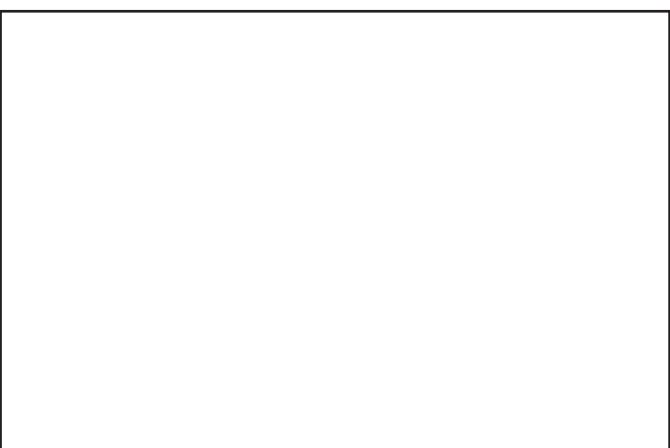
The Sad



The Sick



My Friends



My Family

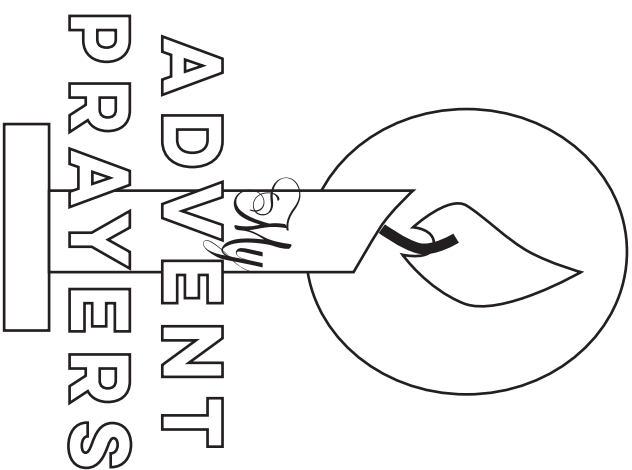


The Poor



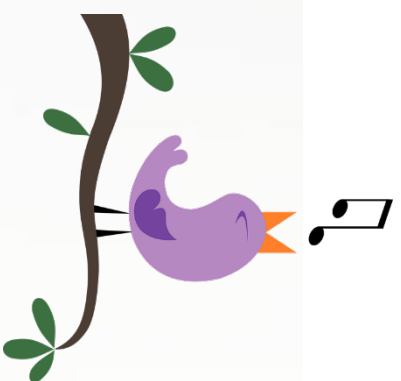
The Whole World

this book belongs to:



**When the birds wake up,
they begin to sing.**

**When we wake up,
we too can sing to God!**



**Say this prayer each
morning until Christmas.**

**DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU
FOR A NEW DAY.**

**LET IT BE A
HAPPY DAY.**

**MAKE US KIND
AND HELPFUL
TODAY.**

AMEN.



ADVENT — A TIME TO WAKE UP