

Christmas Isn't Cancelled!

Unwrapping Advent and Christmas in 2020.

Introduction

Advent is the season of waiting. Waiting for the Saviour. This year has perhaps felt as if we have waited for a number of things; lockdown to end, a vaccine to be discovered or which Tier we will be in next.

Yet the wait of Advent is one that *is* expected *and* anticipated as Christmas approaches. Christmas can't be cancelled in the hearts and minds of those who celebrate it as we await the sure birth of the Saviour. Before you begin the journey through Advent with your pupils, you may want to learn more about Advent. If so, have a look at [Advent in Two Minutes](#).

This series through Advent will follow seven distinct themes; community, gifts, peace, light, hope, love and incarnation. For each day of Advent, you and the pupils in your school within their class or bubble have the opportunity to explore the given theme. The days of Advent in this booklet can be used flexibly so that all can be covered in the weeks leading up to Christmas. This will be through a Bible reading, Christmas Carol, reflective questions and explanation and activity.

This booklet is a resource to use within lessons as we enter the Advent period. However, there may also be an opportunity in Collective Worship to refer to these resources. If so, please find prayers at the beginning and end of the booklet.

If you choose to print this booklet, we advise you do so landscape into an A5 booklet.

To complement this booklet, the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education have produced an Advent Calendar presentation that can be used daily with a class or bubble, discovering an Advent image every day.

We hope that you all have a very happy, restful and restorative Christmas!

Prayers

Community



Dear God, We pray for families around the world: for the family of our school community and our parish community; for our own families; for families who are separated at this time of year and for those with no family.

May Advent through to Christmas be a time of preparation and thought; that Jesus will be at the centre of our lives; that we may unite and forgive each other and that we may look forward with confidence, showing true love for one another. We ask this through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Adapted from The Go Team, The Diocese of Bath and Wells.)

Gifts



Dear Lord,

We thank you for the gift of your son Jesus, the best gift of all!

We join the shepherds and the wise men in worshipping the Saviour, given as a baby to Earth, who will grow into a miracle-working man.

Help us to show gratitude in the way we act, what we say and how we share what we have with others.

Please give us a peaceful, restful and really fun Christmas!

Amen.

Peace



Dear Lord,

We thank you that you are a giver of peace because you *are* peace.

We thank you that your birth was not a surprise to you, but expected and predicted.

Would you bring peace to our world, our nation, our school, our homes? Would you be present in these places as we spend time with family? Keep us safe and for those who feel anxious and who are alone, would they know you with them?

Amen.

Community

1st



Welcome The Christ Child Once Again.

Bible Reading: The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2:4-7

Carol: Mary's Boy Child – Boney M.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmm1gt_2SkQ

Activity: 'Posada' (Spanish for 'inn') is a Christmas activity that originated in Mexico. It takes place during Advent when crib figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey travel around different households in the community and stay for a night. Households pass the figures onto the next household, possibly with an Advent candle or prayer, etc. On Christmas Eve the figures are returned to church as everyone gets ready to welcome the Christ Child once again. Christians believe that by hosting Mary and Joseph, it is a chance to make room for Mary and Joseph and Jesus at Christmas time in their hearts!

Have your own Posada when the crib figures of Mary and Joseph visit all classes/bubbles in the school community, ending up at the crib scene. An Advent message to the community encouraging spiritual reflection could be written by the class / bubble to accompany Mary and Joseph when they leave their class / bubble for their next destination. *(In this COVID year, the Posada could be done virtually!)*

2nd



“Prepare Ye The Way of The Lord.”

Bible Reading: Apostles of Christ - I Corinthians 4:5

Carol: Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending - Ely Cathedral Choir.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPQ3iDPam3A>

Activity: Advent is a season of penitence when Christians think about their sin as human beings and repent to God in preparation for celebrating the coming (adventus) of Christ in His incarnation.

Watch the Tesco Christmas advert: – “We've Got Good News – This Year, There Is No Naughty List.”

<https://www.tesco.com/groceries/en-GB/zone/christmas-advert>

Discuss and relate to the Christian belief of Jesus, as Saviour, Christians believe God is God of forgiveness and forgives them when they are truly sorry. Pupils and staff to privately think of a time when they have hurt someone, which they are sorry for. There may be someone that pupils / staff want to privately say “Sorry” to, later. Play ‘Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending’ again and all actively do something to symbolise removing our sin, e.g. each moving a paper cloud from one container to another.

3rd



“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

Bible Reading: The Sign of Immanuel - Isaiah 7:14

Advent Carol:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Sung by Enya.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3M9JKmUecY>

Activity: Choose a whole school Advent / Christmas theme and each class / bubble to design a Christmas hoop reflecting that theme, i.e. use a hoop from PE and the pupils / staff add decorations to it to illustrate the theme. The theme could be drawn from the themes in this Advent calendar, i.e. community, gifts, peace, light, hope, love or incarnation.

Each class' / bubble's hoop can be displayed centrally, contributing to a display that unites the school community, bringing them together, although physically apart due to current Coronavirus restrictions.

4th



“Comfort and Inspire Me To See Our Journey Through.”

Bible Reading: The Birth of Jesus Is Announced - Luke 1:26-28

Christmas Song:

Angel. Sung by Libera.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jI3d5eFgQk&feature=emb_logo

Activity:

Think about what 'angels' there are in our community, both the school community and the wider community.

Discuss how they are 'angels,' what 'angelic' things do they do? What 'angels' have we seen in our communities through the Coronavirus crisis?

What makes an 'angel?' How might we be 'angelic?'

Think about the roles of angels in the Christmas story. Can we draw any similarities between their role and how angels of today behave? How might angels of today be guided by faith?

Share the characters of the Nativity story community between the classes / bubbles in the school so that each class / bubble has one character. Each class to make a child-size sculpture figure of that character which can then be brought together with the other characters centrally in the school to form a 'Big Crib' scene, again symbolising the coming together of the school community to celebrate the Nativity, even though physically apart due to current Coronavirus restrictions.

Gifts

The Gift of Good News.

5th



Bible Reading: Luke 2. 8-15

Shepherds, who weren't considered very special, stayed with their sheep all the time. It was their job. What does the Bible passage tell us about what they saw? What was the gift the shepherds received? The shepherds were first afraid, (wouldn't you be? think of how it would be to see one angel, then many!) but then they wanted to find out who the saviour was, someone to help and save them. The gift of the news must have been puzzling, but exciting!

Christmas Carol: [Angels We Have Heard on High](#) sung by Joyful6 (reworked Angels from the Realms of Glory.)

Activity: In groups of three, split the passage into three, freeze frame each section. Once assembled, the teacher can point at each pupil who can in turn share a sentence or thought from the point of view of their character. Have the carol playing gently in the background.

The Gift of Giving to Others.

6th



Bible Reading: Acts 20.35 (from Matthew 10.8)

Today is St. Nicholas' Day. St. Nicholas was a Christian man who became known for gift-giving as he secretly gave away his inheritance. He became known as Saint Claus, which became Sinterklaas (Dutch)... and then Father Christmas.

This day is celebrated in different ways all over the world. In one part of Germany, children leave their shoes out the night before, hoping that St Nicholas will leave them a gift.

Film clip: [The True Story of St. Nicholas](#) by BYU-Idaho

Activity: The class to take their shoes off and place in line. The class to then each write a note of encouragement and anonymously leave in a pair of shoes.

7th



What Will Your Gift Be?

Bible Reading: Matthew 2. 1-12

The wise men from the East had seen the star, knew that this meant a king had been born and travelled for months to find that king. They took with them gifts and adoration.

Who did the wise men visit first? What did Herod then ask them to do? Why?

Herod was the current king. He became jealous of a possible new king and asked the wise men to visit again.

When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem, what did they give Jesus? They also gave Jesus and his family another gift, freedom, how? (Hint v12 what *didn't* they share with Herod?)

Christmas Carol: [We Three Kings of Orient Are](#) sung by The Robert Shaw Chorale.

Activity: What will your gift be to others this Christmas?

Love, kind words, patience, help?

Create a small origami box. Before assembling it, write the gift that you will give on the paper so that it is folded into the box. Perhaps hang or put these under a Christmas tree.

8th



The Greatest Gift – Jesus.

Bible Reading: Matthew 2. 1-12

Yesterday and today's Bible passages are the same. Today focus on verse 11. The gifts the wise men gave were gold, frankincense and myrrh. These were symbolic of Jesus' life and death.

Activity: Watch / look at the lyrics from yesterday's song again. They help us understand why gold and myrrh were given. Now research what frankincense symbolised.

Put it all together as you share what you have found. What do these gifts predict about Jesus' life?

Gold – being God He was a King.

Frankincense – holiness and sacrifice, Jesus was born to die on a cross.

Myrrh – put with dead bodies when buried, . . . Jesus was to die.

Christians say Jesus was the greatest gift from God because he sacrificed himself for everyone, so they sing of the joy they have.

Christmas Carol: [Joy To The World](#) sung by African Christmas.

Peace

9th



A Prediction of Peace.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 9. 6-7

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, this piece was written by a man called Isaiah. He predicted the coming of a wonderful saviour who would not just bring peace, but *be* peace.

What other qualities would this person have? What do you think this person might look like?

The Jews hoped the person would topple the Roman occupiers of the area who taxed them highly. Instead, who was sent? Jesus, as a helpless baby, to the poor district of Nazareth, in a cow shed. The person who was going to bring revolutionary peace, love and freedom had arrived...the heavenly realms were rejoicing, but only a few people on Earth actually noticed...

Christmas Carol: [O Little Town of Bethlehem](#) sung by Christmas Carol & Song.

Activity: Create a picture of Jesus in a Manger using your [hand print](#).

On each finger and thumb write one characteristic from Isaiah of adult Jesus.

10th



Jesus, the Bringer of Peace.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 11.3b-9

Another prediction is made by Isaiah about the person, who we find out is Jesus.

As in the previous reading, the prophet imagines a person emerging from the people of Israel who will transform the community. That person will be close to God and bring justice and equality for the people of God.

Explore the imagery together. Nothing will cause damage or hurt anymore because the world will be as God intended it. Christians would say this passage is chosen as a description of the world Jesus makes possible, if humans believe in him and live according to God's will.

Is our community peaceful? Are our hearts peaceful?

Christmas Carol: [O Holy Night](#) sung by Bethel Music Kids.

Activity: The class to create star tree decorations, pupils to write on the outside what type of community they would like to see.

Peace Can Be Hard To Find.

11th



Bible Reading: Luke 1. 26-38

Angel Gabriel, the messenger angel appears to Mary.

How did Mary react? How might you have felt had an angel suddenly appeared like this?

(These things are thought not to have happened very often back then, either!)

Mary did not feel peaceful as the angel told her what was going to happen. Yet, how did she finish the conversation?

However fearful she was, she submitted to what was happening, the evidence is in verse 38.

Christmas Carol: [Mary Did You Know](#) sung by Proclaim.

Activity: Imagine you could Tweet in 1st Century Palestine. Create a Tweet of only 240 characters from Mary to Joseph explaining what was going to happen to them both.

Ensure you use the word 'peace' at least once.

Escape To Egypt - Peace May Not Be Experienced By All.

12th



Bible Reading: Matthew 2. 13 – 15

The shepherds had worshipped, the wise men from the East had brought their gifts and now the Angel Gabriel appears again...and tells Mary and Joseph they must leave the country and go to Egypt immediately with their baby Jesus, back on the donkey for 65kms.

What would happen if they didn't leave?

The holy family were refugees, fleeing possible persecution and death in their own country and finding refuge or safety in another. They stayed in Egypt for three years.

Christmas Carol: [Refugee](#) lyrics by Guite and Bell, music by Bell.

Activity: Research the journey of a modern day refugee.

Find out which country they came from, what caused them to leave that country and what they hope for in the future.

Light

St Lucia – The Bringer of Light and Help.

13th



Bible Reading: John 8.12

Today is Saint Lucy or Lucia's Day. In the early 4th century, Christians were being persecuted in Italy from the Roman Empire. To escape torture and death they hid underground. Other stories say they were in prison. Either way, they were desperate. According to the stories, Saint Lucia risked her life to bring the Christians food. Wearing a wreath on her head, on which there were candles to light her way, her hands were then free to carry more food and aid. People say that St Lucia's lights also symbolise the light of Jesus Christ into the world's darkness. In Norway, Sweden and some parts of Finland, girls dress as St Lucia and carry biscuits and saffron buns in procession.

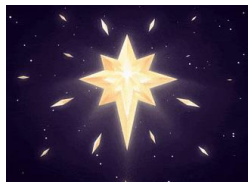
Film clip: [Why do Sweden celebrate Lucia?](#) By Binogi.

Activity: Bake gingerbread biscuits in the shape of candles OR go on a nature walk and gather holly, ivy and other climbing plants to create a class wreath.

Perhaps you could have your own Lucia procession.

A Prediction of Light.

14th



Bible Reading: Isaiah 9.1- 3

Have you ever been somewhere so dark you cannot see your own hand in front of your face? Then someone opens a curtain, touches their phone or pulls up a blind and all of a sudden, light enters the room and the darkness lifts.

This reading tells us of people who are experiencing deep darkness...but for whom a 'light has dawned'...a hope that uncertainty and suffering will end and peace and justice will reign.

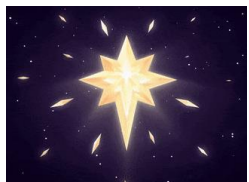
Christmas Carol: [Light of the World](#) by Tim Hughes

OR [It Came Upon A Midnight Clear](#) sung by Winchester Cathedral Choir.

Activity: Create a paper chain of three colours. One representing Jesus, one symbolising what Jesus came to do (from Isaiah 9.1-3) and one symbolising the names of Jesus (from Isaiah 9.6-7 and 9th Dec.) Pupils to have each colour and write on each strip Jesus' name or one thing Jesus did or a name for Jesus. *(Try and use recycled paper for the paper chains!)*

Following the Light.

15th



Bible Reading: Matthew 2.1-12

The wise men in this passage were probably foreign star-watchers, looking for signs in the night sky. They came to King Herod, the local governor, asking about a new 'King of Jews' that they had heard about. They were following a star in the night sky, which they understood to be a sign.

Christmas Carol: [We Three Kings of Orient Are](#) sung by The Robert Shaw Chorale.

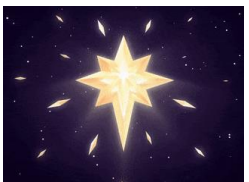
Activity: Create a stained glass Nativity scape from tissue paper and dark card.

Have the star as a feature in all, with the scene underneath a silhouette of the wise men or another scene from the Nativity story.

Invite pupils to share and explain their creations.

The True Light?

16th



Bible Reading: John 1.1-4

St John does not tell us about Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, but instead gives us a God's eye view of the 'Incarnation', - God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus.

He presents Jesus as the light of God, lighting up the truth and getting rid of the darkness of ignorance and wrongdoing. Jesus spoke truth to whomever he came across.

What light can we create in our world?

Christmas Carol: [Silent Night \(in English, Spanish, Mandarin\)](#) posted by Chocotiger.

Activity: Each pupil receives a tea light, (battery operated are available).

They are to switch on as they place in front of them, stating the light they themselves would like to bring into their world.

Hope

17th



“The Hope and Fear of All The Years Are Met In Thee Tonight.”

Bible Reading: The Need To Watch - Luke 21:36

Christmas Carol: O Little Town. By Matt Redman.

From ‘Songs of Praise.’ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04kvsm3>

Activity: Share hopes that pupils and staff have got this Advent, what hopes have they had this year? There are many shared hopes at this time in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic, e.g. hopes for a cure / vaccine and hopes that lessons will be learnt in this traumatic time from good things that happened during lockdown, e.g. a greater appreciation of nature and care for the environment, time spent thinking about what is really important in life, etc.

Discuss what Christians believe from the line of the Christmas Carol “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

Pupils and staff to privately think of a fear that they have and how it can be changed into a hope, reflecting on who / what can give them the strength to do this and how it can happen.

18th



“Can This Tiny Spark Set a World On Fire?”

Bible Reading: The Word of Life - John 1:1-5

Christmas Carol: Like a Candle Flame.

From ‘Songs of Praise.’ – St. David’s Church, Exeter. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mrkl0>

Activity: This Christmas song was written by worship leader Graham Kendrick in 1988. The striking central image describes the potential of the Christ Child as a candle flame reflected in His infant eyes. Reflect on the line from the Christmas Carol, “Can this tiny spark set a world on fire?”

Discuss what Christians believe about Jesus, drawing on the narrative from the beginning of John’s Gospel, our Bible reading.

What sparks of hope do pupils and staff have this Advent?

Make a Candle Christmas tree decoration writing their hope on the candle flame. The Christmas tree decorations can be hung on the class / bubble / school Christmas tree and shared virtually with others on the school’s website.

19th



“Christ, Be Our Light.”

Bible Reading: The Future King – Isaiah 9:2

Christmas Carol: Christ Be Our Light.

From ‘Songs of Praise.’ - St. Cuthbert’s Church, Carlisle.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mqhj3>

Activity: This uplifting Advent carol was a relatively recent addition to the canon of Christmas music, written by Roman Catholic composer Bernadette Farrell in the early 1990’s. It describes the waiting for Christmas as a journey through darkness towards light.

Link Isaiah’s prophecy, (in today’s Bible reading,) with the words in the Christmas Carol. How is the “great light” seen by and shining on Christians expressed as hope by Bernadette Farrell in her carol? Read and reflect on her words of hope and design an atmospheric and seasonal Christmas Card illustrating the words of hope.

20th



“The Child Sleeping In The Night, He Will Bring Us Goodness and Light.”

Bible Reading: The Birth of Jesus Is Announced - Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Carol: Do You Hear What I Hear?

Performed by Shaun Escoffery at ‘Christmas Big Sing,’ ‘Songs of Praise,’ The Royal Albert Hall.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mlxys>

Activity: This Christmas song tells the story of the Annunciation, (the announcement by the Angel Gabriel that Mary would conceive a son,) to the shepherds with charming simplicity. It was written in 1962 by a husband and wife as a plea for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Annunciation announced the good news that a new king, the Son of God, was to be born, . . . hope for a dark world.

In 2020, the world has been going through another crisis, the Coronavirus crisis. People individually and collectively have their pleas of hope for dark times that they and their loved ones and the world have been through over the last 12 months. For people of faith, these hopes will be prayers.

Write a message of hope this Advent / Christmas to others, which can be read on Zoom. Share these hopes via Zoom to the wider school community. If safeguarding procedures have been followed and the appropriate permissions granted, these messages could be recorded and put onto the school and parish church websites for the whole school community, parish and world to hear.

Love

21st



Treasure.

Bible Reading: From The Magnificat: - Luke 1:54-55

Christmas Carol: In The Bleak Midwinter.

Sung by Military Wives Choir at Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London.

From 'Songs of Praise' – Christmas in Winchester. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mnlg5>

Activity: Originally based on a poem entitled 'A Christmas Carol' by Christina Rossetti, this carol has become equally popular in settings by Gustav Holst and Harold Darke. The text is delicate and intimate and both settings bring out its beauty.

The final verse of the carol speaks of a shepherd giving his lamb to "the beloved," symbolising a poor person kindly giving what they have to Jesus in worship and recognition of God's love for His people, shown in His gift to the world, His Son Jesus Christ.

Think about what we deeply love, what is precious to us? How do we look after this? How do we treasure this? Make a little card treasure chest with a picture and words inside of our treasure, being thankful for this.

22nd



"In a Starlit Manger, Emmanuel Light of the World Here to Save."

Bible Reading: The Shepherds and the Angels - Luke 2 - 16-20

Christmas Carol: Adore. By Graham Kendrick.

Performed at St. David's Church, Exeter.

From 'Songs of Praise' – Katherine Jenkins' Faith Journey.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06txvf8>

Activity: 'Adore' paints a picture of the different characters of the Nativity around the crib showing adoration to the newly born baby Jesus. They could all see and feel something special, this gift of love from God to the world and they wanted to give love back.

How do Christians that you know give love to God? (Think about both words and actions.) Research and share how the school's parish church is showing love to its parish and beyond this Christmas, particularly in the light of COVID-19 restrictions.

23rd



“How Far, How Far Love Has Come To Bring Us Home.”

Bible Reading: The Annunciation - Luke 1:26-38

(A different translation of the Bible could be used for today's reading than that used for this passage previously.)

Christmas Carol: How Far? Matt Redman sings his song at Lambeth Palace.

From 'Songs of Praise.' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04hxxpk>

Activity: Matt Redman's moving ballad tells the Christmas story of the Annunciation to Mary and the story to Bethlehem in a contemporary fashion. It has become a soothing Christmas classic. Reflect on how love is being shown throughout the Annunciation – draw upon both the Bible reading and “How Far?”

Discuss the lines “How far, how far, love has come to bring us home,”

“How far they went to Bethlehem, How far you went for Calvary!”

and “No greater ever love was ever seen.”

How do these lines relate to the 'big' story (the metanarrative) of the Bible?

What do they mean for Christians? Think about and set up a way that the school community could show its love to the local community at this festival of Christmas?

24th



The Power of Love.

Bible Reading: Visitors From The East - Matthew 2:9-11

Christmas Carol: Away In a Manger.

From 'Songs of Praise' – The Nativity. Sung in The Priory Barn, Hertfordshire.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mdll7>

Activity: This gentle lullaby was originally known as 'Luther's Cradle Song' although it later transpired that it was not the work of the famous German theologian Martin Luther at all and was, in fact, wholly American in origin. The words have 2 different musical settings, both of which are still sung today.

At the Nativity scene, the love of God radiates from this seemingly helpless and vulnerable little baby boy out to the world. It conquers evil and can reach out to everyone in all walks of life.

Where have pupils and staff seen the power of love at work?

For people of faith, they may express when they also feel the power of God's love at work.

Set up a 'Secret Friend' system in the class / bubble in which each person has a 'secret friend' for the day during which they anonymously look after them and show care and love towards them.

Incarnation

25th



“All Out of Darkness We Have Light. . . Now and Forever More,”

Bible Readings:

The Sign of Immanuel - Isaiah 7:14 and The Birth of Jesus Christ - Matthew 1:22-23

Christmas Carol: On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol.)

From ‘Christmas Big Sing,’ ‘Songs of Praise.’ The Royal Albert Hall.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mn478>

Activity: Christmas really isn’t cancelled! As this year, 2020, has progressed, there has been the question asked by some, “Will Christmas be cancelled this year because of the Coronavirus pandemic?”

As Christians know and understand, Christmas can’t be cancelled! There are differences this year as to how we are celebrating Christmas, e.g. restrictions on households physically meeting up together, no congregational singing in church buildings and social distancing, etc. However Christmas, when Christians remember the birth of Jesus as God in human form, the incarnation of God, is still being celebrated. In the Bible, the prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus hundreds of years earlier, recalled in Matthew’s Gospel at the birth of Jesus. This shows Christians that God keeps His promise, He is a constant God in an ever-changing world, being alongside a world which has changed significantly in 2020.

By stripping Christmas back to the real meaning of the story, Christians explore through the themes of community, gifts, peace, light, hope, love and incarnation how a baby born in a stable changed the world for the better forever. The reminder of God incarnate, will give many Christians strength, assurance and hope in their faith. Pupils and staff can write on card stars their wishes and dreams / prayers for the Christmas season and 2021 which can be displayed as part of the central Nativity crib scene in the school. These can be displayed into 2021 as the season of Epiphany dawns and is celebrated.

Prayers II

Light



Dear Lord,
We thank you that you came to be the light of the world.
Where you are, darkness cannot exist, but instead truth, joy and justice.
Would we be like the wise men from the East who followed the star to find you?
Teach us throughout Advent
where we can find you amongst the preparation, celebration
and perhaps sadness and disappointment.
Amen.

Hope



God, our dayspring and our dawn,
We turn to you when we fear the dark
And all around us weep.
We pray you greet us with your shining light
That we may spread your warm embrace
And kindle the hope of Christmas
In all whose lives remain in shadow.
Come and be our strength
O Lord, our hope and our salvation.
Amen.

Annabel Shilson-Thomas / CAFOD.

Love



Fearful and weary,
We watch and wait . . .
Into the world's deep need,
come Lord Jesus!

Jesus our Messiah,
from a flawed past,
lead us to a new future
with you at its heart.

From all that masks us
from each other and from you,
free us, O God.

Come Lord Jesus,
Make your home within us
And turn our fear to love. Amen.

Susanna Gunner, The Diocese of Norwich.

Incarnation



Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in Heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.