

Sunday 28 November 2021

# ADVENT SUNDAY



Happy New Year!

No, we're not a month early! Today marks the start of a new Church year! Are you looking forward to opening the doors on your Advent calendar? Did you know that the Church also begins getting ready for Christmas today, on Advent Sunday? We don't open doors on a calendar, but we do light candles on an Advent wreath. We shall light a new candle on each of the four Sundays in Advent, as we learn about the people who prepared the way for Jesus.

😞 Advent is a time of waiting, but many people have forgotten how to wait and they are so busy that they lose sight of what Advent and Christmas are really all about.

We will tread gently through the weeks of Advent, waiting patiently and learning about those who point the way to Jesus. Ready? Let's begin....

🕯️ As we light the first candle, we remember the first people who pointed the way to Jesus – the Patriarchs, especially Abraham. Abraham understood that there is only one God, and knew about faith and believing God's promises. You can read about him in the Old Testament – in the very first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Like Abraham, we trust God's promises. We are waiting, because Jesus has promised to come again some day, and all things will be made new. We don't know when this will be or exactly how it will happen. It might be tomorrow, it might be in 200 years or 2,000 years, but we know that his coming will be worth the wait! We wait with joy, and hope, and with thanksgiving, as we also wait to celebrate Jesus's first coming at Christmas. That's what Advent is all about!

🙏 Here is a prayer for lighting the first candle:

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

You could colour the candles on the picture below week by week and say the prayers - there will be another one next Sunday.



🙏 You might like to write an Advent prayer of your own.

# Advent Word Search

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

## Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



A picture of Abraham to colour:

