

Advent 2022 – ARE YOU READY?

This Advent intergenerational service is designed to support the Families on Faith Adventures @ Home Advent bumper pack, though it can be used in isolation from that.

Each member of the congregation will need a gift tag, a self-adhesive paper chain segment and a coloured pen.

The worship leader will need a big shopping bag containing six smaller numbered paper bags:

- 1) Two bags of flour: one red packet, one blue packet**
- 2) Box of teabags**
- 3) Angel Delight packet**
- 4) Three tins of exotic drink or food, three oxo cubes**
- 5) Two jars of Marmite and three large white marshmallows**
- 6) A handful of Shreddies or a Weetabix**
- 7) A jelly baby**

From



and



Call to worship “So always be ready. You don’t know the day your Lord will come. The Son of Man will come at a time you don’t expect him. So always be ready!”

First hymn Come all you vagabonds (Stuart Townend)
www.stuarttownend.co.uk/song/vagabonds/ <https://youtu.be/s27D7M8biul> or
Jesus calls us here to meet him

Lighting the advent candle/ advent liturgy or

Loving God, we are gathering here to meet with you and with each other.

May we feel your love surrounding us as we share together today;

May we sing and pray, knowing that you are listening to words spoken and unspoken;

May we listen, waiting for you to speak to each one of us as we need, to encourage or teach or comfort us;

May we go out, eager to share the news of the coming of your light into the dark places of our world. Amen

Hymn 2 Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Talk What is Advent? – time of getting ready. Our church doesn’t look very ready yet. What are we getting ready for? What sort of things might we be getting ready?

Hymn 3 Are you ready, ready, ready.... <https://youtu.be/vJ2H1GH8uCY>

Talk *Take out bag number 1* – flour – red and blue – plain, ordinary store cupboard ingredients. Who in the Christmas story might they remind us of? Mary and Joseph. They had to be ready to say yes to God. Mary was only about 14 – anyone here around that age? Joseph was probably older, about 30 maybe. *Place 2 bags of flour on the table*



Take out bag number 2 – Teabags. Nothing says welcome like a nice cup of tea. Who gave a welcome to Mary and Joseph? Innkeeper – not mentioned in the Bible, but welcoming. Gave what he could, though the full inn suggests he was very busy and also getting plenty of money! Are we ready to welcome? Who needs a welcome in today's world? *Place the packet of teabags on the table*



Prayer Welcoming God, thank you that each one of us is welcome in your family, no matter who we are. You are never too busy for us. Help us to be welcoming too, and to look out for those who need us to welcome them in your name. We pray that you'll find a welcome in our hearts and in our lives. Amen

Hymn 4 – Long ago prophets knew, ring bells ring

Talk Take out bag number 3 - Angel Delight – what might this represent? Who were visited by an angel. I wonder what you think an angel might look like? The angels were ready to spread good news and to celebrate. Christmas is a time for celebration. We buy food, decorate the house, etc. Let's make the church look like we're celebrating something special *Place the packet of Angel Delight on the table*



Prayer – each person has a paper chain link and a pen – write or draw on the reverse something you're thankful to God for this Advent – maybe something that's happened, or someone special, or something you love about God's creation, or something you're looking forward to.... Then link it through the next person's link until we have a chain to decorate the church. Thank you for all that you give us, God, and especially for the gift of Jesus to be our friend and to show us how to live. Help us to celebrate your love. Amen.

Talk *Take out bag number 4* The tin cans are shiny and come from far away. And there are three tiny parcels too. Wise ones – shiny, exotic, bearing gifts – we’re thinking of buying presents – maybe doesn’t need to be expensive gifts, gifts of time and love and thoughtfulness. And what can we give to God? Are we ready to give? *Place the tins and stock cubes on the table.*



Offertory and offertory prayer, As the offertory is taken, each person should write or draw on their gift tag something that they want to give this Advent – maybe an act of kindness, a donation to charity, a smile, a change in how they behave, more time in prayer etc. Bring them up and tie them onto twigs to make a prayer tree. God, you shower us with your gifts today and every day. Accept our pledges and our offerings and use them to spread your love far and wide. Amen.

Hymn Come and join the celebration – there’s a new king on his way.

Talk *Take out bag number 5* – Marmite - you love it or you hate it. Shepherds were a bit like that. A bit smelly, strange tastes, not universally liked – it was to the outcasts that the angels came with their message and these uneducated folk dropped everything, left behind their sheep even though they might lose their jobs! *Place the marmite and marshmallows on the table then take out bag number 6, spread shreddies on the table and place the jelly baby on them....* and went to meet... Jesus. They gathered around the manger – not a special baby crib but an animal trough filled with hay - and saw the baby lying there. Are you ready to meet Jesus this Christmas?



Prayer It's not Christmas yet, but Christmas is coming, and we're getting ready. Presents to buy, houses to clean, school productions to practise for, food to buy.... In our busyness, help us remember the important things. Help us get ready to meet Jesus, as we say yes, welcome, celebrate, give and gather together. Amen

Lord's Prayer and notices

Hymn Sing we the king who is coming to reign

Blessing and grace

