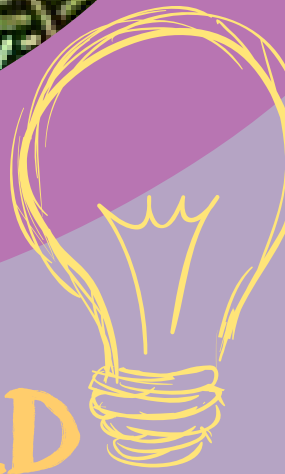


ADVENT

LIGHT OF THE WORLD



This year we have done lots of waiting, waiting to visit people again, perhaps waiting for test results, waiting to return to school and just waiting until we can mix freely again and Advent is about waiting too.

In Advent we await the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1: 5

Word of the week

Now at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. Everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's house and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who live in fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Now when the angel had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had

Prayer for the week

Reader: God of light, shine brightly in our hearts.

Show us how to bring hope to others.

All: Lord, shine brightly in our hearts.

Reader: God of love help us to comfort people and to share in their joy.

All: Lord, shine brightly in our hearts.

Reader: God of hope, help us in this Advent to share your light with others.

All: Lord, shine brightly in our hearts.



Why is light important?

Talk to the person next to you and think of as many reasons as you can as to why light is important.

Jesus is the Light of the World. He brought the light of truth to the world and overcame the darkness of sin and death. Jesus Christ is the light that shines through the darkness of the world, showing us the right way to go and how to overcome the darkness in our own lives.

We too are called to be light in the world. We hear in Matthew's Gospel that we all have light inside of us and we are to let that light shine.

We have a chance to shine Jesus' light into the world and the lives of others.

How do you think Jesus is calling us to let our light shine?

WATCH THIS

LIGHTtheWORLD—Follow the example of Jesus Christ. Share His light and serve as He served.

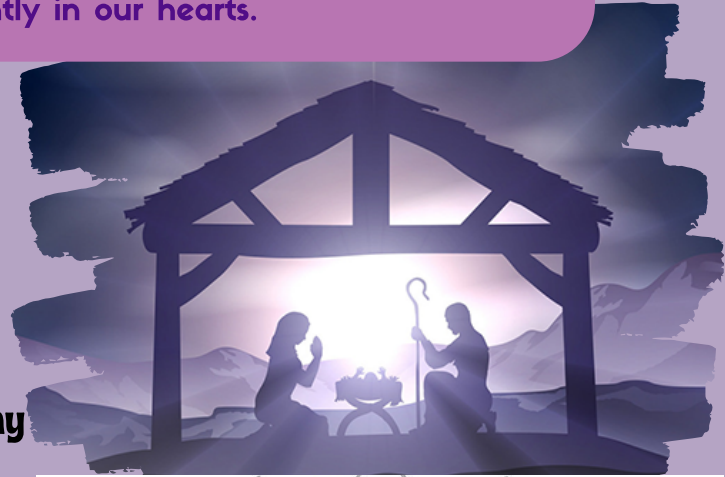
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"We can choose to cultivate kindness. Those who do so become shining stars in the midst of darkness."

Pope Francis (Fratelli Tutti)

How can our actions be a light in the world this Christmas?

Depending when you're reading this, there are about 10 days left until Christmas. Can you come up with 10 ways in which you can bring light into the world? 10 acts of kindness which bring hope, peace, joy and love. Complete one a day just like you would open your advent calendar.



The Night Before ADVENT



'Twas the night before Advent when all through God's House
not a heart wasn't stirring, not a heart wasn't roused.
His people wrapped around His Word with awe,
Awaiting wonders and the fresh grace of God.

The children were anxious for His Story to start,
these Visions of love dancing loud in their hearts.
And God in His glory, and us, in Jesus Christ,
settled only for a Christmas all about Christ.

When out on the streets, the frenzy came with a clatter,
Yet in hearts, Joy sprang up, centred on Who matters.
Away from the stresses, we flew like a prayer,
Simply opened our hands and made room to prepare.

For the Light of the World to warm every dark space,
a lustre of hope cupped in every cold place.
Till what to our wandering hearts should appear,
Murmurings of a King and Love drawing near.



Christmas Light of the World
[\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

Lauren Daigle- Light of the World
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Jesus Light of the World
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