

# ADVENT: THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

*Word of the Week*

## LUKE 2: 1-15

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of heavenly hosts appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*Father, we praise you and thank you this Christmas time for your love towards us and that you have shown your love in the gift of Your Son Jesus, who came to be our saviour.*

*Help us to show gratitude and our love for you as we behave in a loving, caring, thoughtful way towards other people.*

*May the love which came down at Christmas be spread throughout the whole world.*

*Amen.*

## TIME TO TALK

*Suppose Jesus had been born in modern times. How might the story have gone? Talk to the person next to you and discuss how the story of Jesus' birth might have played out in 2021.*

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

*On TV the other year as hope assistant complained that she thought the build up to Christmas brought out the worst in people.*

*it is true that Christmas can bring out the demanding and selfish side of people. Perhaps we all expect and demand too much nowadays? Perhaps we judge other people on how much they have spent on us?*

*Take a moment in silence to ask God to remind you of the real meaning of Christmas.*

*Lord, help us to look beyond the tinsel and presents, to the true meaning of Christmas.  
Amen,*

## THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEED

*If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.  
If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.  
If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.  
If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.  
But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
So God sent us a Saviour.*



## SOMETHING TO DO...

*What does Christmas mean to you?*

*In a moment of quiet reflection complete the sentence:*

*"To me Christmas means/is..."*

*Feel free share these out loud as a class.*

## DON'T FORGET THE ADVENT APPEAL!

### ADVENT APPEAL 2021

#### WEEK 3: CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE/SWEETS

This week (W/C 13th Dec) you are challenged to collect as a form group as many boxes of Christmas chocolates as you can, and also to bring in Christmas cards, and write inside them a message of love, and hope this Christmas for those who are homeless this Christmas.

A Prayer for Week 3.  
Lord, help us to look beyond the tinsel and presents, to the true meaning of Christmas.  
Amen.

**All chocolate and sweet treat items need to be in by Wednesday!**