

Advent: Joy



Word of the Week Luke 2: 8-12

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

Reflection

As we get closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus, we focus on the sentiment of joy. Advent is a season of waiting, but joy reminds us that the promise is certain. Christ is coming, and that truth fills our hearts with hope. Joy is not only about what is to come; it is about recognizing God’s presence in the here and now, even in small, ordinary moments. In times of darkness or uncertainty, joy becomes a source of resilience. It is not shallow happiness, but a deep assurance that God’s love endures.

The angels brought joy to the shepherds as they proclaimed the birth of Jesus – a saviour who would bring great joy to all people. The shepherds were ordinary people who were given an extraordinary message - joy is not reserved for the powerful or privileged. It is for everyone, especially the humble and forgotten. The angels began with “Do not be afraid.” Joy is the antidote to fear, reminding us that God is near. The shepherds left their fields changed, carrying a new hope that would ripple through generations. The angelic song of “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests*” still echoes today. It reminds us that joy is not just an emotion but a divine gift, breaking into our ordinary lives with extraordinary grace. Like the shepherds, we are invited to receive this joy and share it with the world.



Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus. We await eagerly for the arrival of Jesus. May we be filled with hope, peace, joy and love.



Prayers for the week

Dear Lord,

At the first Christmas your angel announced, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests". Thank you for the peace your son Jesus promised. May the Lord of Peace Himself give us peace at all times and in every way.

Amen

Dear Lord,

Sometimes we get stuck in a negative headspace, complaining about everything. Help us switch our attitude to gratitude and joy. Help us notice the good things around us and remind us that your love is constant. Give us the strength to choose positivity and joy.

Amen.

Dear Lord,

As we journey through Advent remind us that the best joy is shared joy. Open our eyes to see who might need a smile, a kind word, or just someone to listen. Help us to reach out to those who are struggling or lonely this season, so they might also experience the joy of your coming at Christmas.

Amen.



Challenge for the week ahead

Bring as much joy as you can this week!!

Think about what you can do to bring joy to your form, to your friendship group, to your teachers, to the school community.

Challenge yourself to bring joy every day this week!



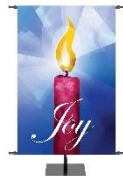
Watch me!

[Prepare Him Room](#)

[Advent Week 3: Joy](#)



The Candle of Joy



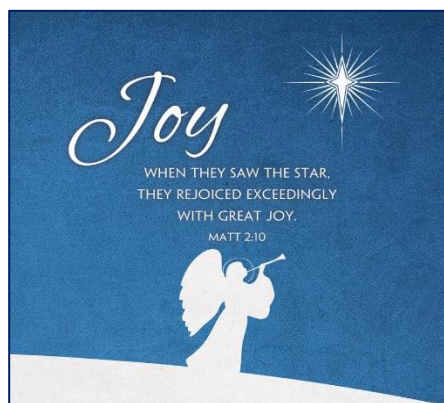
The candle is burning, its flame so bright and joy floods the soul to our delight.

For the Light of Life has shone upon us bringing joy so perfect and marvellous.

Joy unspeakable and full of glory as we remember the Christmas story.

How the Almighty God had come to earth born as a baby through a virgin birth.

Royston Allen



Advent Appeal Reminder

-Bring in items for the reverse advent calendar – remember that clothing/blankets/sleeping bags don't have to be new.

-Bring in a pound to help feed as many homeless people as we can in Preston this Christmas.

JOY



