

# Advent Adventure 2 - Immanuel-God With Us

## IMMANUEL-GOD WITH US IN THE CHURCH

### YC 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

Sing: "Bind us together" Lord M.P 54 or just use the chorus, or no. 1 at the end of Advent Adventure 2.

Read: Luke 2 v41-46  
or the story of the boy Jesus at the Temple.

Pray: Lord Jesus,  
You loved to go and  
worship God, your Father, in church.  
Thank you that we can  
enjoy going to church  
and worshipping God too.  
Amen.

*Light the 1<sup>st</sup> candle on the Advent ring.*

### OC 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

Sing: "Bind us together" Lord M.P. 54 or "An army of ordinary people" M.P. 32 or no. 1 at the end of Advent Adventure 2.

Read: Romans 12 v4-8

*How could you use your gift for God this Christmas in Church?*

Pray:  
Voice 1: Lord God,  
You give each of us gifts  
to share with others  
in the church.

*Light the 1<sup>st</sup> candle on the Advent ring.*

Voice 2: Some of us can sing,  
play music, prophesy,  
do drama, teach  
or dance.

Voice 3: Some of us can show  
kindness, love or understanding.  
Some of us can smile  
and welcome people.  
Some of us see pictures which help  
others come close to you.

Voice 4: There are so many gifts  
which are needed  
to build up the family of God.

All: 2 Timothy 1 v6-7

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YC Monday 1:  
God creates the day and night, sea and plant life.

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 1 v1-13 (or use a bible story book)

Pray: Creator God,  
We thank you for the light  
which gives us life.  
Thank you for the dark  
so that we can sleep.  
We thank you for the sea,  
the trees and flowers  
that bring us colour and fun.  
Amen.

*Open the advent calendar door.*

## OC Monday 1

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Psalm 27 v1-6

Ask: Can you remember a time this year when God has kept you safe, either from people who were being unkind, or from physical danger or difficulty?

Pray:

Voice 1: “The Lord is my light...”

Voice 2: Dear Lord,  
We pray that you will  
light up our lives.  
Guide us with the light of the bible.  
Make us happy in the light of your  
presence.  
Teach us by the light  
of your Holy Spirit.

Voice 1: “The Lord is my salvation...”

Voice 3: Thank you for saving us,  
and forgiving our sin.  
Thank you that you are at work  
inside us,  
changing us  
and making us whole people.  
Thank you that we will live  
with you FOREVER!

Voice 1: “Whom shall I fear?”

Voice 4: Lord God,  
When we feel afraid,  
please remind us  
that we have you within us,  
as the light and salvation of our lives.

All: “The Lord is our light and our salvation!”

Whom shall we fear?"  
Amen.

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YC Tuesday 1:

God creates the sun, moon and animals

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 1 v14-25 (Remember to use a bible story book if it's easier.)

Pray: Heavenly Father,  
You are so clever  
to create so many  
different things.  
How did you manage  
to imagine so much?  
Please help us to create  
something today.  
Amen.

If you have time create something together today. Something to eat or drink, a card for a friend, a flower arrangement...

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

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OC Tuesday 1

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Psalm 63 v1-8 (repeat v6 at the end)

Pray:

Voice 1: Thank you Father,  
that during the night you are with us.

Voice 2: We know that in the bible you spoke  
to people in dreams.  
Help us to listen to our dreams  
and see what you want

to show us.

Voice 3: If we lie awake at night,  
please be near us.  
Help us to talk with you,  
to pray for others.  
To remember the words  
of songs or bible verses.

Voice 4: And when we wake each morning,  
remind us to turn our minds to you,  
in thanks for being with us  
through the night,  
and in asking that you will  
bless us through the day.  
Amen.

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YC Wednesday 1:

God creates Adam and Eve

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 1 v26-28, 2 v15-18, v22, (or use a Bible story book)

Pray: Dear God,

We thank you for making us so special.

Thank you for:

(get everyone to say and point to the parts of their bodies they want to thank God for)

We think our bodies are great!

Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

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OC Wednesday 1

*Light the Advent candle.*

Think: (But don't discuss) How well have I done at reading my bible this year? If you feel a twinge of guilt (!) remember that today is the first day of the rest of your life. Our life with God involves frequent new starts.

Read: Psalm 119 v9-16

Pray:

Voice 1: Father, forgive us,  
for the times when we haven't put  
you and your word first this year.

Voice 2: We know  
that we need your teaching:  
to give us life,  
to make us more like you,  
to give us compassionate hearts.

Voice 3: But we are so easily distracted.  
Friends, T.V., food, computers,  
going out, games, sleeping!  
can quickly become more attractive  
than spending time with you.

Voice 4: Please help us to be determined,  
to read your word and talk with you  
each day.  
Amen.

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YC Thursday 1:

Adam and Eve disobey God

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 3 v1-7

Pray: Dear Father,  
We are very sorry  
that we do things  
we've been told not to.

Please help us to obey our parents  
and to obey  
all the things you have told us to do.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

OC Thursday 1

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Matthew 13 v1-9

Make a list: of any missionaries you know or have met this year. Write down any people you know who are involved in evangelism in your Parish or in other places.

Pray: Either pray your own prayer for these people, or pray this prayer:

Lord God,  
We thank you for \_\_\_\_\_,  
thank you that they have been willing to  
go to those who don't know you, to tell  
them the Good News. We pray that you  
will encourage them especially today, help  
them to know we are praying for them. We  
ask that as they look back on this year,  
they will see all that you have been able to  
do through them.  
Amen.

Now pray for yourselves:

All: Dear God,  
Wherever we go today,  
this week,  
next year  
and the years ahead,  
help us, like the sower,  
to scatter seed.

To live the sort of life that shows others  
what a wonderful God we follow.  
To tell others  
about all that Jesus has done for us,  
and what he wants to do for them.  
Amen.

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YC Friday 1:

Adam and Eve are afraid

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 3 v8-13

Pray: Lord God,

When we do something wrong,  
help us to come to you  
and say we're sorry.  
Help us not to run away and hide,  
but be brave,  
and tell those in our home  
what we've done.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

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OC Friday 1

Light the Advent candle.

Read: Matthew 13 v18-23

Pray:

Voice 1: We pray for people  
who have heard about you this year,  
but the evil one has snatched away  
the words they heard.  
Please help them to meet  
some other Christians  
who will tell them again about God.

Voice 2: We pray for those  
who have heard about you,  
and listened joyfully.  
But people laughed at them,  
or problems surrounded them,  
and it became too difficult to carry on.  
We ask that you will send a Christian friend  
to encourage and support them.

Voice 3: We pray for those  
who follow you,  
but whose lives are unfruitful.  
They have no time to share your life  
with anyone else.  
Help them to re-arrange their life  
so that they have time for you,  
and time for other people.

Voice 4: We pray for ourselves,  
help us to be like the seed  
in good soil.  
Help us to produce a rich harvest,  
celebrating you together,  
learning more about you,  
and caring for other people.

Voice 5: Let's think for a moment in silence.  
What sort of seed and soil has my life  
been this year?

Voice 6: We ask that your Holy Spirit  
will work in our lives,  
and help us want to be,  
100% Christians.  
Amen.

*If you have a pair of pruning shears and a branch, they will be useful for tomorrow.*

## YC Saturday 1:

Seth is born

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 4 v25-26 (explain that the final sentence means that people began to talk to God)

Pray: Dear God

We thank you  
that for years, and years, and years,  
people have talked to you.

Thank you that  
we can talk to you and you hear us.

Thank you that  
whenever we need a friend to listen,  
we can talk to you.

Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

## OC Saturday 1

*If you have scissors or shears and a small branch put them on the table.*

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: John 15 v1-8 (when you read v2 use the shears to cut the twig.)

Discuss: Has anything difficult happened to us this year, which could be God “pruning” us, and helping us to be more fruitful as Christians?

Pray:

Voice 1: Father,  
We want to bring you glory  
by bearing fruit in our lives,

and so showing ourselves  
to be your disciples.

Voice 2: We thank you  
that you work with us  
to help us bear fruit.

Voice 3: Thank you,  
for the opportunities we've had  
this year  
to tell others about you;  
to show your love to those we've met,  
to care for those in need  
and to celebrate  
you in our lives.

Voice 4: Thank you,  
for helping us to remain in you,  
and although it's painful,  
thank you for cutting out the  
dead wood  
and pruning the good wood,  
so that we are even more fruitful.  
Amen.

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IMMANUEL-GOD WITH US IN OUR FAMILY

YC 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Read: Luke 4 v38-40

Sing: "Father I place into your hands", verses 2-4  
M.P. 133 or no. 2 at the end of Advent Adventure 2.

Leader say: Christmas can be a very unhappy  
time for people who are hungry,  
lonely or miserable. Is there a way  
our family can help someone this  
Christmas?

Pray: Dear God,

We thank you that you care about  
people who are sick  
people who are unhappy  
and people who are lonely.

Thank you that we can help  
(or show us how we can help)  
someone this Christmas.

Amen.

*Light 2 candles.*

OC 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Voice 1: Malachi 4 v5-6

*Light 2 candles.*

Sing: "Father I place into your hands" v2-4 M.P. 133,  
or no. 2 at the end of Advent Adventure 2.

Leader: Christmas is one of the worst times of  
the year for some people. The suicide  
rate goes up, families argue and many  
can be permanently damaged. Often  
people feel lonely, isolated and  
miserable.

Is there any way we could offer  
kindness to someone else this  
Christmas?

Voice 2: John the Baptist came to fulfil  
Malachi's prophecy. The angel speaks  
to Zechariah, John's father:

Read: Luke 1 v16-17

Pray:

Voice 3: O God,  
In our family this Christmas,

help our hearts to be turned  
towards each other,  
not towards ourselves.

Voice 4: Help our hearts to be turned  
towards those who are  
lonely, isolated and miserat  
Help us not to have  
self-centred hearts.

Voice 5: Thank you that you are turning  
our hearts towards  
our family  
and towards needy people.  
We couldn't possibly  
turn our hearts ourselves!  
Amen.

YC Monday 2:  
God tells Noah his plans

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 6 v9-14, v17-19

Ask: Why did God send the flood?

Pray: Lord God,  
We know how upset you feel  
when people do wrong things.  
We know how much you love  
all that you have made.  
Help us not to make you feel sad  
by speaking nastily,  
saying unkind things,  
or being greedy.  
We need your help,  
because it's hard not to do these things.  
Amen

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

## OC Monday 2

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Isaiah 43 v22-26

Pause: For a minute in silence look back over the year, are there any things that you've done or said that you particularly regret? Or any things you wish you had done? Pray together the prayer below and as you do imagine yourself laying these sins at the foot of Jesus cross.

All: Loving and forgiving Father,  
We hold out our hands to you in sorrow.  
We are sorry for all the  
wrong we have done,  
We are sad that we have  
let you down  
in the way we have spoken to others.  
We realise there are many  
encouraging words  
and acts of kindness  
we have refused to say and do.  
We see that our hands are dirty,  
and we know  
that we have no power  
to wash them clean ourselves.  
Through the power of the blood of Jesus,  
who died for us,  
forgive us, wash us  
and make us clean again.  
We ask this in Jesus name,  
Amen.

Leader: As you read these verses imagine Jesus saying them directly to you, about the things you have laid down by the cross.

This is what the Lord says: Isaiah 43 v18-21

YC Tuesday 2:

The flood lasts for a long time

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 7 v11-12, 8 v6-12

Ask: Have you ever been on a boat?

Pray: Dear God,

Out in a boat on the sea,  
or on a river,  
we feel very small  
and maybe not very safe.  
Sometimes at playgroup,  
nursery, or school,  
we may feel very small  
and not very safe.  
Help us always to remember  
that you are with us,  
looking after us  
all the time.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

OC Tuesday 2

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Matthew 25 v1-13

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God, Please help us to be ready when you come again.

Voice 2: Help us to spend time with you,  
so that when you come  
we will know you,  
and you will know us.

Voice 3: Help us to live our lives  
remembering that  
you could come back  
at any time.

Voice 4: And when you come,  
we don't want you to find us  
gossiping or swearing,  
greedily putting ourselves first,  
angry and shouting,  
lying or boasting.

Voice 5: Help us always to be ready.  
Sharing our time, possessions,  
energy and love  
with other people,  
and enjoying getting to know you better.  
Amen.

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YC Wednesday 2:  
God's promise

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 8 v15-22

Say: There are lots of wonderful promises in the Bible.

Pray: You could look up a couple more promises if you have time. You could use them as a prayer; start off:

Dear Father,  
Thank you for these promises:  
(you could read the promises aloud together or alone, or say a bit and everyone else repeat it after you.)

John 10:9,  
John 10:14-16  
Matthew 28:20b,  
Hebrews 13:5b  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

OC Wednesday 2

*Light the Advent candle.*

Ask: What do you imagine heaven to be like?

Read: John 14 v1-6

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear Lord Jesus,  
It's great to think  
that you have gone  
to get a room ready  
in heaven for us.

Voice 2: And that when we die,  
you will come and collect us,  
and take us to our own room,  
to be with you  
forever.

Voice 3: Help us to get to know you better  
each day.  
So that we will know  
the way to heaven.

Voice 4: Re-read verse 6.

YC Thursday 2:  
God calls Abraham

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 12 v1-5

Ask: God spoke to Abraham and Abraham did what God asked him to do. How can we hear God speak to us today? (Think about the Bible, songs, friends, family, church, creation...)

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,  
We want to hear you  
to us today  
Help us to listen to  
as we read your Bible,  
sing songs about you,  
talk to our family and friends and  
look at the things you've made.  
We know that you want to talk to us,  
help us to listen.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

OC Thursday 2

*Light the Advent candle.*

Say: St. John had a vision of what heaven would be like.

Read: Revelation 22 v1-5

Leader: Close your eyes for a moment to help you imagine the picture better.

From the throne of God flows a river, right down the middle of the street of a great city.

On each side grows the tree of life, each month it produces a new crop of fruit, even its leaves bring healing.

In the city we can see God, and all of us who are there, carry his name on our foreheads. The city is brightly lit by God, and there is no darkness at all.

Dear God,

Thank you that heaven  
is a place of  
light, love, healing,  
life and belonging.  
One day we want to be there  
with you.  
Amen.

YC Friday 2:

Isaac brings happiness to Abraham and Sarah

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 21 v1-7

Pray: Dear God,

Thank you for the happiness  
that new babies  
can bring.

Think: Do you know anyone who is pregnant or  
has a young baby?

We pray for \_\_\_\_\_  
(either pray by name for people or say  
'anyone with a new baby')

May their baby give them  
lots of happiness.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

## OC Friday 2

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Revelation 22 v12-17

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,  
We want to go through the gates  
into the city we saw yesterday.  
We want to be clean,  
and have the right  
to eat of the tree of life.

Voice 2: We know  
that all we have to do  
is accept your free gift  
of eternal life.  
Thank you for dying for us.

Voice 3: We ask that you will  
give us strength  
to avoid temptation and sin.  
Help us not to get involved  
with magic and occult practices.  
Help us not to be sexually immoral.  
Help us not to murder  
or be angry with others.  
Help us not to put other things first,  
before you.  
Help us not to tell lies,  
or to live dishonestly.

All: The Spirit and the Church say "Come!"  
And we who hear say "Come Lord Jesus."

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## YC Saturday 2:

Isaac marries Rebekah

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 24 v1-4, v10-12, 15

Pray: Dear God,  
Thank you that when  
Abraham's servant prayed  
for a wife for Isaac,  
You answered him,  
and sent Rebekah.  
When we pray  
help us to watch  
for your answers.  
Amen.

Ask: Can you think of a way God has answered  
your prayer recently?

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

OC Saturday 2

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Isaiah 40 v3-5

Pray:

Voice 1: Sometimes, Lord,  
when we do the same things  
over and over again,  
they can lose their meaning  
and their freshness.

Voice 2: As we prepare for Christmas,  
help us to see again  
the glory of the Lord,  
revealed to all people.

Voice 3: May something in the Christmas story  
speak to us clearly  
of your love,  
your power

or your presence in our world.

Voice 4: As we think about  
our Creator,  
born as a baby,  
the greatest,  
becoming the least,  
open our ears  
to what you want to tell us.

Voice 5: And open our eyes  
to see the new things  
you want to show us.  
Amen.

AT HOME  
WITH  
GOD

## IMMANUEL-GOD WITHN US

### YC 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Read: Luke 2 v8-11

*When you read verse 9, light 3 candles*

Sing: "The light of Christ" (M.P. 652)  
You could use just verse 3 and the chorus or no. 3  
at the end of Advent Adventure 2.

Pray: Lord God,  
We want you to come  
and live inside us today.  
We want to have the light of Jesus  
inside us.  
Amen.

### OC 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Say together: Philippians 1 v3-6

Sing: "As the deer pants for the water" M.P. 37,  
or no. 3 at the end of Advent Adventure 2.

Read: Luke 2 v8-11

As you read, imagine yourself out on the hill, in the darkness; the stars covering the sky, the feel of the cold wind, the sound of the sleeping sheep. Then see the light fill the sky, and hear the angel speak to you.

*Light 3 candles*

Pray:

Voice 1: Thank you that you bring  
light into the darkness of our lives.

Voice 2: Thank you that you bring  
warmth into the coldness of our lives.

Voice 3: Thank you that you  
calm our fears  
and say "Don't be afraid."

Voice 4: Thank you that,  
within our hearts today  
lives Jesus,  
he is Christ the Lord!  
Amen.

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YC Monday 3:

Jacob plans to take Esau's blessing

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 27 v1-10

Pray: Lord God,  
Jacob was greedy,  
he wanted to take Esau's blessing,  
and he tricked his father Isaac.  
Help us not to be greedy  
and take things which aren't ours.  
Help us to share all that we have.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

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OC Monday 3

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Matthew 3 v1-12

Say: John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy we

read in Isaiah on Saturday.

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear Lord,  
John the Baptist  
was willing to be different,  
in order to tell others about you.  
Help us to be willing  
to be different too,  
not to follow the ways of the world,  
then people will ask us about you,  
just like they asked John.

Voice 2: John the Baptist was humble,  
even though  
he was your older cousin,  
he accepted you as the Messiah.

Voice 3: Read John 1 v29

Voice 4: Help us to live  
with the same commitment  
and humility  
that John the Baptist showed  
as we wait for your coming.  
Amen.

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YC Tuesday 3:

Jacob's dream about a ladder going up to heaven

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 28 v10-17

Pray: Dear God,  
We thank you for the night-time  
when we can all sleep.  
Help us to sleep well,  
but if we have bad dreams  
help us to remember you are  
with us in the darkness

of the night. Amen.

You could learn Psalm 3 v5 (Good News Bible):

**'I lie down and sleep  
and all night long the Lord protects me.'**

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

### OC Tuesday 3

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Deuteronomy 16 v9-12

Think: When the Israelites celebrated they were instructed to give an offering to God in proportion to the blessings God had given them. How has God blessed you this year?

Pray:

Voice 1: We thank you Lord God  
for all the blessings you have  
poured down upon us:  
(Name some of the good things: \_\_\_\_\_)

Voice 2: You are a kind  
and generous God,  
who loves to give  
good gifts to your children.

Voice 3: Help us to give generously  
and willingly,  
out of the good gifts  
you have given us. Amen.

### YC Wednesday 3:

Joseph tells tales over his brothers

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Genesis 37 v1-4

Pray: Dear Lord,  
We are very sorry  
when we tell tales  
over other people.  
Please help us not to do it.  
When Joseph told tales  
it made so much trouble  
we don't want our family to be like that.  
Amen.

Open the Advent calendar door.

### OC Wednesday 3

Light the Advent candle.

Read: Deuteronomy 16 v13-17

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,  
You told the Israelites  
to be joyful at their feast.

Voice 2: Sometimes it's hard to be joyful.  
If our circumstances are unhappy,  
or we don't feel well;  
if we feel depressed or bad-tempered;  
if people are unkind  
or we feel worried.

Voice 3: Help us to choose to be joyful  
whenever we can,  
seeing it as a gift we can give to others,  
and something we do  
to obey and follow you.

Voice 4: Forgive us if we allow selfishness  
to spoil our joy,  
and give us the strength to be joyful. Amen.

## YC Thursday 3:

Joseph forgives his brothers

*Light the Advent candle.*

Say: Because Joseph's brothers hated him so much, they sold him as a slave and pretended he was dead. In Egypt, Joseph became a very important person, because God helped him warn the Egyptians of a terrible famine. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food from Joseph, but they didn't recognise him.

Read: Genesis 45 v1-8a, 14-15

Pray: Lord Jesus,

We thank you that Joseph  
forgave his brothers.  
We thank you that  
because you died on the cross,  
we can be forgiven  
for all the wrong things we do.  
Please help us to forgive  
each other too.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

## OC Thursday 3

*Light the Advent candle.*

Think: What is the most important thing in your life?  
What takes most of your time, energy, money, thought?

Read: Mark 10 v17-25

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord Jesus,  
We can see that the  
rich ruler  
wanted to follow you,  
but he wanted  
his money  
more than he wanted you.

Voice 2: We are sorry  
because we know that there  
are many things in our lives  
which we love  
more than we love you.

Voice 3: Please help us  
to love you more than  
anything else,  
to give you first place in our lives.

Voice 4: We thank you,  
that even though the rich ruler  
couldn't put you first,  
you loved him.  
Thank you that when we fail,  
and don't put you first,  
you still love us.  
Amen.

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YC Friday 3:

Ruth meets Boaz

*Light the Advent candle.*

Explain: Ruth and Naomi had come back to Bethlehem, because their husbands had died. Boaz was their relative and he might look after them.

Read: Ruth 2 v1-4, 14-16

Pray: Dear God,  
Boaz knew that Ruth and Naomi

were poor and hungry.  
He was kind to Ruth,  
and made sure she had food.  
Help us to be kind and generous  
to those who have  
no money or food.  
Amen.

Ask: Is there any way you could give food or money to people who are poor this Christmas? It could be a local charity or a missionary society.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

### OC Friday 3

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Isaiah 35

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,  
We thank you for the certainty  
in these verses,  
“The desert...  
...will be glad  
...it will burst into bloom.”  
Help us to trust you  
when things are difficult,  
to know that you will  
bring joy  
and new life  
into the desert places  
we go through.

Voice 2: Forgive us Lord,  
so often our eyes are blind,  
we don't see your goodness,  
your love,  
your work in our lives.  
Please open our blind eyes  
and let us see you, and all you do for us.

Voice 3: Forgive us Lord,  
because our ears are deaf  
and we often don't take  
time to listen to you.  
Please unstop our ears  
and help us to hear  
what you want to say to us.

Voice 4: As we journey together  
along the way of holiness,  
help us to rejoice and be glad,  
to sing and to celebrate,  
that one day there will be  
no more sorrow or sighing  
when we are together  
with you in heaven.  
Amen.

YC Saturday 3:  
David and Goliath

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: This would best be told from a Bible story  
book, or 1 Samuel 17 v1, v4, v8-9, v12,  
v20-24, v32, v48-49

Pray: Dear God,  
When David was a young boy  
he loved you,  
and fought Goliath  
because he trusted you.  
When he grew up  
and became King,  
he still loved you.  
We pray that we will always love you  
and follow you,  
just like David did.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

## OC Saturday 3

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Matthew 1 v18-25

Say: Joseph was a good father. Think of one good thing about your own father and tell him if you can.

Pray:

Voice 1: We thank you for the example of Joseph as a good father. Thank you that he was willing to listen to you and obey you. (If your father is not there because of death or divorce go to voice 2B)

Voice 2A: Heavenly Father,  
We thank you for our earthly father,  
for all that he does for us,  
for his love and care of us,  
for the time he spends with us.  
Please be close to him today.  
Amen.

(If the father is there he could pray this prayer.)

Dear God,  
Thank you for my family,  
help me to be a good father.  
Help me to spend time  
learning from you  
and listening to you,  
so that you can teach me  
how to be a better father.  
Amen.

(If the father is not there you could pray this prayer.)

Voice 2B:

We thank you that you  
are our Heavenly Father.  
That you love us and  
care about every part of our life.  
We pray for our human fathers  
even though they are not here now.  
We thank you for them,  
and ask that you will  
be with them today.

Amen.



AT HOME  
WITH  
GOD

## IMMANUEL-GOD WITH US IN THE WORLD

### YC 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Light all 4 candles.*

Read: Luke 2 v13-20

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus,  
Please help us to be  
like the shepherds.  
To go out and tell  
other people about you.  
Amen.

Sing: "Go tell it on the mountain" M.P. 179, or no. 4 on page 152.

### OC 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

Read: Luke 2 v13-20

*Light all 4 candles as you begin to read.*

Sing: "One shall tell another" M.P. 541, or no. 4 at the end of Advent Adventure.

Think: Is there someone you could tell about  
Jesus, either this Christmas or next year?

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear Lord,  
Sometimes it's hard  
to speak about you.  
We're afraid that people  
won't understand  
or will laugh at us.

Voice 2: So we need your help.  
We know you want us  
to tell others about you,  
and we do want to tell them.

Voice 3: Please would you give us the opportunities to talk about you, and the right words to say when the opportunity comes.

Voice 4: Help us to keep watching to see when this happens.  
Amen.

Read together: Matthew 28 v19-20

---

YC Monday 4:

David the songwriter

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Psalm 24

Ask: When David looked at God's world he saw how special it was. What part of God's world do you want to thank God for today?

Pray: Dear God,  
You have made so many wonderful things.  
We want to thank you today for \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

---

OC Monday 4

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Luke 1 v26-38 – use three voices:  
a narrator,  
Mary,

Angel Gabriel.

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,  
You asked Mary to do a  
very difficult thing.  
You asked her to have a baby  
when she wasn't yet married.

Voice 2: She knew  
that when she said "Yes" to you,  
she would be reprimanded,  
gossiped about,  
criticised,  
laughed at  
and humbled.

Voice 3: She knew  
that saying "Yes" to you,  
was not the easy way.  
But she said:  
"I am the Lord's servant,  
may it happen to me  
as you have said."

Voice 4: Sometimes you ask us  
to do difficult things,  
to stand up to bullies,  
to live differently from  
the worlds standards,  
to show kindness to lonely people,  
to say "No" to wrong things  
and risk being laughed at,  
to carry your light  
into a dark world.

Voice 5: Like Mary,  
give us the courage to say "Yes"  
to say:

All: "We are your servants,  
please use us as you think best." Amen.

YC Tuesday 4:  
Jesus' family history

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Look together at a Bible and pick out the names of Jesus' ancestors:  
Luke 3 v23, 31, 32, 34, 36, 38

Say: Jesus had some well-known people in his family history. Over Advent we have read some stories about Jesus' ancestors.

Pray: Pray today for your relatives:  
grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.  
Ask God to be with them.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

OC Tuesday 4

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Psalm 139 v13-18

**(Please read this carefully before you use it.)**

Ask: Supposing the shame had been too great for Mary and she had decided to have an abortion. Is it ever right to have an abortion?

(Either use the prayer below, or pray a prayer thanking God for any young babies you know.)

Pray:

Voice 1: Lord God,  
Sometimes we have to make hard choices.  
We pray for any women  
having to decide whether  
to keep a baby  
or to have an abortion.

Voice 2: We ask that you will send  
wise people to support those  
who are facing unwanted pregnancies.  
Please give the women  
and their friends and families  
courage to continue  
with the pregnancy  
and perhaps to give the  
baby to adoptive parents.

Voice 3: We pray for any fathers or mothers  
who are grieving for a baby  
who has been aborted.  
Help them to know  
that if they turn to you,  
you will forgive and comfort them.  
For Jesus' sake we ask this,  
Amen.

YC Wednesday 4:  
Joseph's dream

*Light the Advent candle.*

(If you have a crib scene you could use the different figures as a focus for your prayer time over the next few days.)

Read: Matthew 1 v18-21, 24-25 (or read about Joseph in a Bible story book)

Pray: Dear God,  
Sometimes we don't want  
to do what is right.  
Please help us to be like Joseph,  
and do what's right,  
even when it's difficult.  
Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

## OC Wednesday 4

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Proverbs 31 v10-31 and as you read choose one verse that reminds you of your mother.

Say: If your mother is with you, tell her which verse you thought of. If she's not there, find a few moments of quiet today, either to thank God for any good memories of your mother, or to write to her.

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,  
You are our Heavenly Father,  
and you love us  
as a mother loves her child.

Voice 2: We thank you  
for your love for us  
and the love of our earthly mothers.

Voice 3: "As a mother comforts her child,  
so will I comfort you."  
(Isaiah 66 v13)  
Amen.

---

## YC Thursday 4:

Mary is told about Jesus' birth

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Luke 1 v26-38

Pray: Dear God,  
We thank you for the angel Gabriel  
who came to visit Mary.  
Thank you that your angels

guard us, help us and protect us.  
Amen.

Read: Matthew 18 v10, which tells you about  
your own special angel.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

OC Thursday 4

*Light the Advent candle.*

*(It would be worth finding the 2 bible passages at the start.)*

Read: Micah 5 v2

Say: Sometimes God uses people who don't  
serve Him to fulfill His plans.

Read: Luke 2 v1-7

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear God,  
You work in unusual ways,  
ways that we don't expect,  
ways that we wouldn't choose,  
in order that your plans  
happen in our lives.

Voice 2: Help us to watch  
to see how you are working  
in our lives,  
how you are guiding us,  
where you are leading us.

Voice 3: When we can't see clearly,  
the way ahead,  
or feel upset and disappointed  
by things which have happened,  
help us to trust you.

Voice 4: When illness or disorder  
or difficulty strikes,  
and we are tempted to  
turn away from you,  
help us to trust you.

Voice 5: “For my thoughts are not your  
thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the Lord.’  
(Isaiah 55 v8)  
Amen.

---

YC Christmas Eve:

Joseph and Mary arrive in Bethlehem

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Luke 2 v1-5

Pray: Dear Lord,  
So many people will be travelling  
over this Christmastime.  
Please keep them safe,  
(especially \_\_\_\_\_). Amen.

*Open the Advent calendar door.*

---

OC Christmas Eve

*Light the Advent candle.*

Read: Luke 2 v8-20

Pray:

Voice 1: As we get everything ready  
for your birthday tomorrow  
Lord Jesus,  
we want to take time to

praise and glorify you  
like the angels and shepherds did.

Voice 2: We praise you and thank you  
for being willing to be born  
as a human being  
in a dirty stable,  
amongst poor people.

Voice 3: That you left behind  
the glory and splendour of heaven  
and came to earth  
to die,  
so that we could be saved  
and live with you forever.  
Amen.

---

YC Christmas Day:

Jesus is born!

*Light all 4 candles.*

Read: Luke 2 v6-7

Pray: Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
that you were born today.  
Please help us to have  
a happy time together  
as we celebrate your birthday! Amen.

---

OC Christmas Day

*Light all 4 candles.*

Read: Luke 2 v21-35 say together verses 29-32

Pray: Dear Jesus,  
Thank you that because you came,  
you have brought light

into our lives.  
Help us today to let that light  
shine out in front of each other. Amen.

---

### YC Boxing Day:

The shepherds came to worship

*(Don't forget to collect the shepherds from your crib scene if you have one)*

Read: Luke 2 v8-20

Ask: What do we want to thank God for about our church?

Pray: Dear God,  
The shepherds came to worship  
Jesus in the stable.  
We come to worship him  
in our church.  
We thank you for our church,  
especially for \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.

---

### OC Boxing Day

Read: Luke 2 v36-40

Pray: Each person could think of something they particularly want to thank God for and say a prayer each, or use this prayer.

Dear God,  
We want to thank you for  
all your goodness to us,  
thank you for \_\_\_\_\_.  
We thank you for our  
family and friends too.  
Amen.

---

YC 27<sup>th</sup> December:

The wise men travel a long way

Read: Matthew 2 v1-8

Pray: God our Father,

We are sad that King Herod  
was not a good man and  
that he wanted to kill Jesus.

We pray for our Queen and government:  
help them to be good people  
and to follow your laws.

Amen.

OC 27<sup>th</sup> December

Read: Psalm 23

Ask: Are there any things you are particularly  
looking forward to or dreading next year?

Pray:

Voice 1:

Lord God,  
We know that life is a mixture  
of green pastures,  
restful, restoring places;  
and dark valleys,  
difficult uncomfortable places.

Voice 2:

As we go into a new year,  
help us to remember  
that you are with us  
in the green pastures  
and the shadowy valleys.

Voice 3:

Help us to fear no evil,  
but to know  
that you are always with us,  
guiding us,  
and protecting us.

Amen.

---

YC 28<sup>th</sup> December:

The wise men worship Jesus

Read: Matthew 2 v9-12

Pray: Think of 4 things you want to thank God for beginning with the letters G O L D.

Dear God,  
We thank you for

G \_\_\_\_\_  
O \_\_\_\_\_  
L \_\_\_\_\_  
D \_\_\_\_\_

You shower so many good things on us.  
Thank you! Amen.

---

OC 28<sup>th</sup> December

Ask: Are you making any plans for the year which you are uncertain about?

Read: Jeremiah 29 v10-14

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear Father,  
We put into your hands  
all the plans we are making,  
and all the plans  
we will think about next year.

Voice 2: We trust you.  
We ask you to stop any plans  
which are not your ideas,  
and to help forward those plans

which are also your plans  
for us.

Voice 3: Help us to believe  
that you always want  
the best for us,  
and to be willing to leave  
our plans with you.  
Amen.

YC 29<sup>th</sup> December:

The family escapes from King Herod

Ask: What are you frightened of?

Read: Matthew 2 v13-15

Pray: Dear Lord God,  
It must have been frightening  
escaping from King Herod.  
We are frightened of many things  
please help us to remember  
that you are always with us.  
Amen.

OC 29<sup>th</sup> December

Pray:

Voice 1: Dear Lord,  
We are sorry for our sin.  
We are sorry that sometimes  
we choose other things first  
before you.

Voice 2: We are sorry  
when we are hard-hearted,  
and we long for more  
of your Holy Spirit.

Voice 3: We need His help  
in following you  
next year.  
Amen.

Read: Ezekiel 36 v25-29

YC 30<sup>th</sup> December:  
They come home to Nazareth

Read: Matthew 2:19-23

Ask: Think of something you really like about your home.

Pray: Thank you God, for our home,  
especially \_\_\_\_\_  
We want you to be here  
in our home  
next year.  
Amen

OC 30<sup>th</sup> December

Read: Romans 8 v28, 31-39

Pray:

Voice 1: Thank you Lord God  
that your love  
can never be taken away from us.

Voice 2: You gave us Jesus  
to be born as a human baby,  
to live with us,  
to die for us,  
and to live again!

Voice 3: You give,  
because you love us so much.

Voice 4: We ask  
that each day  
we will feel loved by you,  
with that love  
which can never be  
separated from us.  
Amen.

Voice 5: Read v38-39 again.

There is alternative material for Advent and Christmas as well as material for us over New Year and for Candlemas (Feb), Lent, Easter and Hallowe'en available. Please get in touch to find out more.

AT HOME  
WITH  
GOD

## Words to Say Instead of Songs.

- 1) You are the Lord of our church,  
You are the head of our family,  
You are the cord which holds us together,  
You are the love which binds us.
- 2) Open your hands Father,  
Take hold of each person here.  
Hold us forever,  
In the palm of your hand.
- 3) The light of Jesus  
Brings love into our lives.  
The light of Jesus  
Saves us from darkness.  
The light of Jesus  
Changes us, fills us.
- 4) Our eyes will see your creation,  
Our ears will hear your voice,  
Our hands will feel the things you've made,  
Our noses will smell your world!  
Our mouths will tell of your goodness and greatness.

AT HOME  
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