

Secondary Schools Advent Liturgy v2

Hall in candle light. As pupils gather choir singing 'Wait for the Lord'

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – ALL

Introduction

Welcome to our advent liturgy. Advent is that time of the year when we prepare to welcome Jesus into the world and our lives again. It is a season of waiting and a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, who is true God and true Man in the form of a helpless baby. His arrival changes the world forever, it is Gods greatest gift to his people. Through the message of John the Baptist, the ministry of the angels, the obedience of Mary and St Joseph, the joy of the shepherds, the adoration of the magi and the expectation of Elizabeth and Zechariah we pray and enter more deeply into the events of the saviours birth.

Video Reflection

He came video – 1m 30s - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u65m_-LLfs

Opening Prayer

Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen

Prepare ye the way of the Lord – choir walk up with lanterns

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT - LIGHT 1ST CANDLE – HOPE

We light the first candle on our advent wreath to symbolise the Hope Jesus brings to our broken world. *Sing wait for the Lord*

Video Reflection

In the beginning was the Word – 1m -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkjX4s_7pqU

1st Reading

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom
a light has shone.
For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice,
both now and forever.

The Word of the Lord
R/ Thanks be to God

Reflection 1

Advent is the seasons of love. During these days we discover the depth of God's love for humankind, for the world, for every person but for us personally. We discover the beauty and glory of God's love made incarnate, born in a stable, true God, true man, of one being with the Father. Jesus walked this earth, he worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind, he acted with a human will and with a human heart he loved us. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been one of us, like us in all things but sin.

In walking this season of advent we receive every spiritual grace and blessing to love God with all our heart and love our neighbour as our self. Isaiah prophesies in that reading we just heard the one to come will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, prince of peace. Welcoming Jesus into your heart brings light into a dark world. During these past few weeks we have been showing that same love to those in need through our hampers of hope campaign. Let us during these days prepare the manger of our hearts to welcome Jesus once more.

Ready the way - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxyKS7fW8ug>

*During this song, the Manger is brought forward and
strips of fabric are placed in it*

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT - LIGHT 2nd CANDLE – PEACE

We light the second candle which symbolises the Peace Christ brings both to our own lives and to our world. *Sing wait for the Lord*

2nd Reading

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?"

And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

For with God nothing will be impossible."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

R/ Thanks be to God

Reflection 2

Mary brings the saviour into the world. She is the new eve, her obedience to God replaces eve's disobedience. God knew we would make a mess of things from the very start of creation and so he set Mary aside and didn't allow her to be born into sin like the rest of us, after all she would carry Jesus in her womb. When the time was right he sent the angel Gabriel to declare to the virgin that she was pregnant with the son of God. God chose a young, uneducated, Jewish girl to bring the saviour into the world. She wasn't married so she risked people judging her and Joseph leaving her if he thought she had been unfaithful to him but she trusted in God, she said Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

CJM Music - Love shone down <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyjhpaaEs8>

During this song the statue of Mary is brought forward

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT - LIGHT 3RD CANDLE - JOY

In this third week of advent we light the pink candle to symbolise the Joy being a follower of Christ brings. *Sing wait for the Lord*

3rd Reading

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Word of the Lord

R/ Thanks be to God

Reflection 3

Joseph is a wonderful example of pure, unselfish love. He sticks by Mary despite what everyone in the community thinks of her. He has the faith to trust the message of the angel in his dream and brings up Jesus as his own. The word Emmanuel means 'God with us', For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son to save us. Though God, Jesus humbled himself to share in our humanity to show us the way of service and love and to save us from the darkness of sin.

God with us – call and response

During this song the statue of Joseph is brought forward

Prayer of Invocation

Reader: Lord Jesus, in this Advent season we wait eagerly for your arrival. Come fill us with your hope, your peace, your love, and your joy.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Reader: The world isn't like you wanted it to be. We don't love each other as you love us. So come and help us change.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Reader: The world is full of fighting and wars. We even find it difficult to get on with our friends and family sometimes. We need you, Jesus. Come show us how to live in peace.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

What kind of greatness – School Choir

Closing Prayer and Blessing – Parish Priest

May the star of Bethlehem, which shone brightly over the first crib stand guard over our homes, filling them and all the earth with light and peace. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your Holy Birth you give hope to all the world.

Blessing and dismissal

Closing Hymn – Like a sea without a shore (Maranatha) - ALL