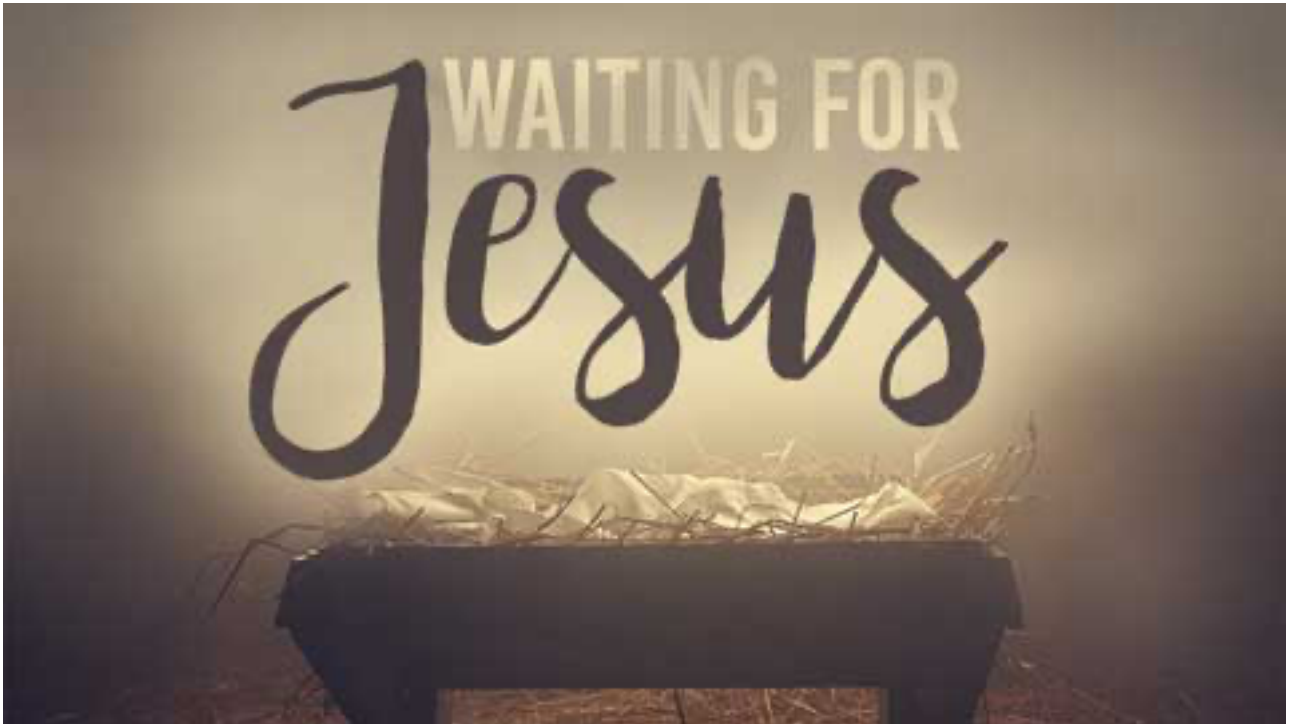


Advent Service



*‘Wait for the Lord, be strong
and take heart and wait for the
Lord’. Psalm 27:14*

Monday 2nd December 2024



Mrs Maguire

*I sit in the silence,
My mind races ahead of me.
I let those thoughts pass,
Waiting.*

Mrs Gill

*Listening in silence
for that gentle voice of God.
Wondering when I will hear the whisper.
Waiting. Waiting.*

Mrs Lewis

*Emmanuel, God be with us
Come be with me as I sit,
Waiting, wondrously waiting for the coming of the saviour.*

Opening Hymn

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*



2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light!

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!

Year 4 representatives:

Yesterday we celebrated the first Sunday of Advent, so today, we join together as a school community to begin our preparations for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. During this season of Advent we ask God to help us remember it is not about waiting for all the exciting presents we may receive from our friends and family. The true meaning of Advent is preparing for the presence of Jesus in our hearts.

*Advent Wreath to be created around prayer table as Ms Garton and Miss East read
—by Mini Vinnies*

Ms Garton

Our Advent wreath will help us with the countdown to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. An Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, with four candles that represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple, reminding us to pray and help prepare the way for Jesus.

Miss East

The candle for the third week is pink, reminding us to be joyful because the birth of Jesus is drawing near. The fifth candle on the Advent wreath is white and symbolises the birth of Jesus the saviour of the world.

Today we begin our Advent Journey by lighting the first candle, the candle of **hope**.

Year 1 representative:

As we light the Advent candle of hope, we bring to mind all the people and the places in the world that are in need of light this day:

Year 2 representative:

We bring to mind those places in the world where families and countries are torn apart by conflict, violence, or war, and ask for the light of peace to break through the darkness.

Year 3 representative:

We bring to mind all those places in the world where people have been forced from their homes and are separated from their families and ask for the light of hope to break through.

Year 4 representative:

We bring to mind all those places in the world where people are suffering from disease or illness, and ask for the light of healing to break through.

Year 5 representative:

We bring to mind all those places in the world where people are held captive by poverty, hunger, and isolation and ask for the light of freedom and abundant life to break through.

Year 6 representative:

May our prayers encircle the world and offer light in places of darkness. May we work as one body to bring justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted. Enkindle hope in our darkened world and announce the dawn of your kingdom once again. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Candle of hope is lit by Mrs Maguire.

Pause for a moment of silent reflection

Read by Mrs Maguire:

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark (13: 33-37)

We think about Jesus, we talk about Jesus and we love Jesus

Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge, after giving to each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch.

Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming—it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!”

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

Mrs Heath

Sometimes waiting feels good ... like when we are looking forward to meeting someone, or waiting to go on holiday. This kind of waiting is different to waiting frustratedly for the bus to come, or the phone to ring. When it is good to wait, it is because we believe that we will be fulfilled, that something wonderful and great will happen.

Ms Congdon

Advent invited us to wait, to wait consciously, to wait openly for God, to wait and notice God in our lives, in the bits and pieces of everyday. Advent invited us to live each day in expectation.

Miss Hilton

God is not in the past, in all our mistakes and failings and things we have left undone.

God is not in the future, in all things we are rushing to do.

God is in the present, trying to break through, to become incarnate in our world right now, in this moment.

But only those who are waiting, expecting, watching for something wonderful will notice.

Closing Prayer: Read by all



Dear Heavenly Father, as we gather in the soft glow of this first Advent candle, we embrace the hope it represents. Just as the prophets of old foretold the coming of your Son, we too await His arrival with eager hearts. May the light of this candle remind us that in the midst of darkness, your promise shines bright. Fill our hearts with hope and anticipation as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Amen

When is He Coming

When is he coming, when, oh when is he coming, the Redeemer?
When will we see him, when, oh when will we see him, the
Redeemer?

Come, oh come, from your kingdom up there, from your kingdom
up there above!

Come, oh come, to your people on earth, to your people on earth
bring love!

Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel!

Long years a-waiting, many years here a-waiting the Redeemer!
Ready to greet him, always ready to meet him, the Redeemer!

Come, oh come, from your kingdom up there, from your kingdom
up there above!

Come, oh come, to your people on earth, to your people on earth
bring love!

Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel!

When is he coming, when, oh when is he coming, the Redeemer?
When will we see him, when, oh when will we see him, the
Redeemer?

Come, oh come, from your kingdom up there, from your kingdom
up there above!

Come, oh come, to your people on earth, to your people on earth
bring love!

Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel!

