

## Advent



This week we enjoyed learning about Advent. Advent is a time of preparation. Christians are getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

How are you preparing for Jesus this Christmas?

We talked about the Advent wreath. Can your son/daughter tell you why the wreath is circular?

Do you know why the altar cloths are often purple during Advent? In the time of Jesus, purple was the colour of kings.

### The First Advent Candle

The first Advent candle is a purple candle and it is often referred to as the, 'Prophet's Candle,' in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah. Isaiah foretold the birth of Christ. The first Advent candle symbolises hope and it reminds Christians that Jesus is coming.



Can you bring hope into the lives of others? How?

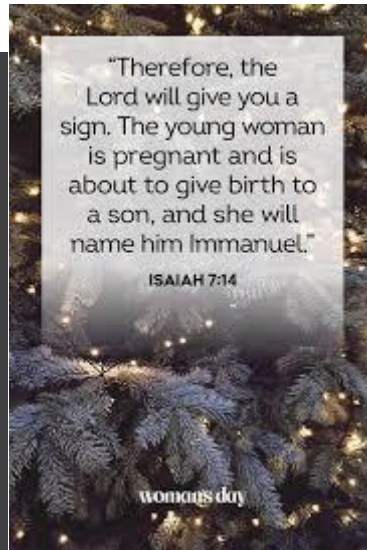
Lord God,

Help us to use this season of Advent to be ready for your Son, Jesus Christ.

Grant us joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth at Christmas;  
give us hope as we wait for Him to return in glory; for He is the light of the world.

Amen

It represents hope felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.



### The Second Advent Candle



On Wednesday, the children focused on the second Advent candle. We shared Mary's story from the Bible.

When the angel visited Mary, did she just carry on with whatever it was she was doing, or did she sit down, pray or go for a walk? How did she feel?

A short time after the angel Gabriel visited Mary, she went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah had also had a visit from an angel and a very big surprise (Luke 1:5-23). How did Mary feel when she saw and spent time with Elizabeth? (Luke 1:39-45). When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, did it make her feel better? Do you think Mary and Elizabeth looked forward to the birth of their babies?

What are you looking forward to this Christmas? Christmas is a time of celebration. For Christians it is one of the most important times of the year. It's also a time when we help others less fortunate than we are.

### Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for this special time of year that we look forward to. We want to say thank you for the gift of Jesus and ask that we may find ways to give to others.

Amen.

