



Children's liturgy – First Sunday of Advent

Welcome: Today is the first day of Advent. Advent is a special time when we wait in hope for the coming of Jesus. Let's think a bit more about the things we wait for and what we hope for today.

Opening prayer: Dear God, because you love us so much you sent your only Son into the world to be with us. Help us to wait in hope with joyful hearts for his coming and to share your hope with others. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. On earth whole countries will be in despair, afraid of the roar of the sea and the raging tides. People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near."

"Be on your guard. Don't let yourselves become occupied with too much feasting and drinking and with the worries of this life, or that Day may suddenly catch you like a trap. For it will come upon all people everywhere on earth. Be on the alert and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all those things that will happen and to stand before the Son of Man."

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus is talking about when he will come again. Can you remember what he said to his disciples?

Jesus says that he will come again in a cloud with power and great glory. Do we know when Jesus will come again?

Even though we do not know the exact time when Jesus will come again, he says that we need to be ready. We have to wait and watch for him.

What's the most exciting thing you've ever had to wait for? Was it the visit of a friend or family member? Was it for a special treat? How did it feel while you were waiting? Did the time go quickly or slowly? What did you do while you were waiting?

Waiting is not easy, is it? Especially if we don't know when the thing or the person we are waiting for will arrive.

We do not know when Jesus will come again, but in today's gospel Jesus tells us to pray and to watch how we behave while we are waiting, so that we will be ready when he comes. How do you think Jesus wants us to behave? How do you think he would like us to treat other people both here and around the world?

Jesus asks us to love one another and to treat other people as we want to be treated. Whether they're in our own family or on the other side of the world.

What will you do this week, so that you can try to be ready when Jesus comes again?

The other thing that is special about waiting for Jesus during Advent is hope. We have hope that Jesus will one day come again and make all things new. We have hope because of his birth long ago in a stable in Bethlehem, when he came to show all people God's love for us.

Hope is not just a wish for good things to come in the future. It also changes the way that we feel and think and act. When things are hard, if we have hope that they will get better in the future, that helps us to keep trying and working to change things. And this then often leads to the difficult situation getting better.

We can share hope with others, by being with them in difficult times, by giving them a smile or a hug, or by helping them with something that is hard.

CAFOD is part of a big Church network that helps people all around the world to find hope by working with them to build a better future for themselves and for their families.

In Ukraine, the war meant many older people and those with disabilities found themselves stuck at home, unable to get food and other things they needed. Some friends from CAFOD's church network helped organise a team of brave volunteers who shared hope by getting on their bikes to deliver food baskets, until a solution could be found.

What is your hope this Advent? And how do you think you could share hope with others around the world?

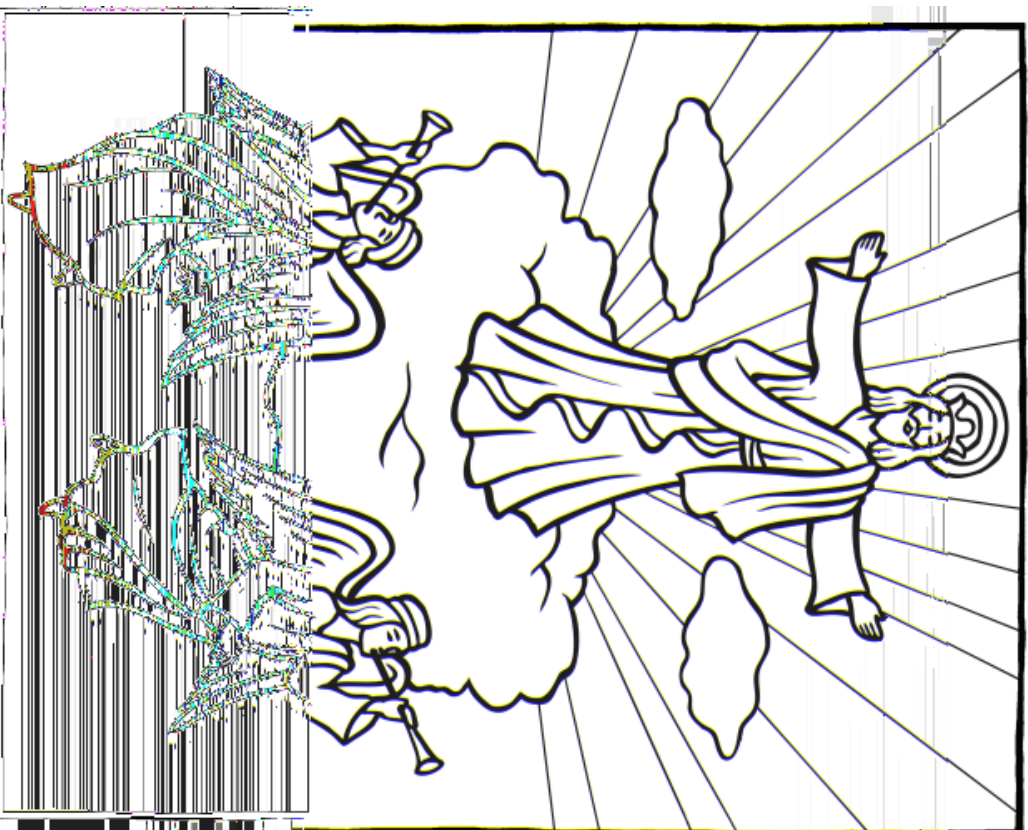
Activity

Colour in the accompanying activity sheet. Use Cafod's family prayer resource sheets (<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/advent-family-prayer-ideas>) to create a Christmas tree bauble reflecting Advent hope. This can be cut out and hung on your tree once it is up. Then to stick the paper template to card to make it stiffer.

Remember to share all that you have read with the people at home during the week and to do your best to try and live so you can try to be ready when Jesus comes and to see if you can share hope with others locally and around the world.

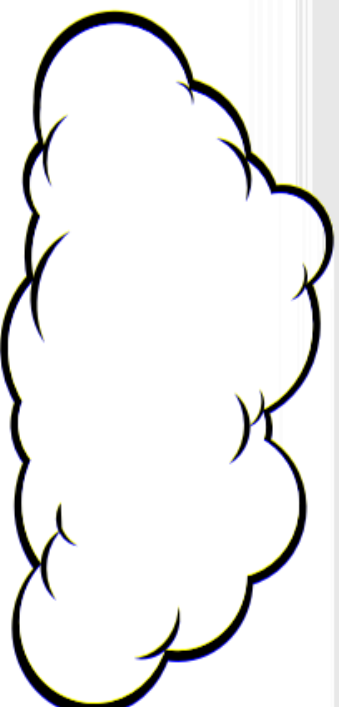
First Sunday of Advent (Year C)
Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

“Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory.” Luke 21:27



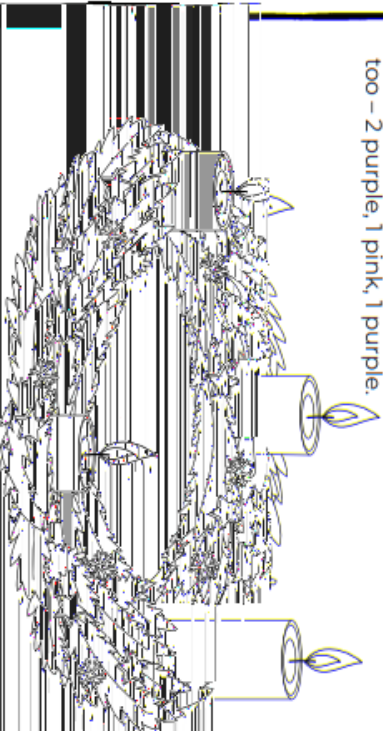
Sharing hope

The gospel this week says Jesus will come again in a cloud of glory. Write or draw on the cloud what you are hoping for this Advent and how you can bring hope to others.



Advent begins

Today is the start of Advent. Colour in the flame of the first candle on the Advent wreath. You may like to colour the candles too – 2 purple, 1 pink, 1 purple.



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