



# ADVENT 2024

The Anglican Diocese of Ballarat

# ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Advent is that special time each year as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at Christmas. This year the Ministry Development Committee of the Diocese of Ballarat has prepared some reflections on four themes for Advent – God’s Promise, Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary, together with some craft activities and music.

Our four authors have each written an introduction to the theme, to be read at the start of each week of Advent, followed by a prayer to use each day of that week. You may choose to do a craft activity each week as well. I suggest that everyone at least makes an Advent Wreath or finds a candle that can be lit as you read and pray your way through Advent.

May you experience Christ’s coming to you each day this Advent.

The Rev’d Canon Robyn Shackell  
Chair, Ministry Development Committee

# GOD'S PROMISE

Keith Romanis

It can be tempting to think of Christmas as God's starting point: Jesus is born, laid in a manger and God's plan proceeds from there. But Advent reminds us that God's plan for us begins at the beginning: that what God has always wanted is to be in deep relationship with us, and God's promise is that we will be one day brought into deep, unending relationship with the Creator of the Universe. This is the hope that we are called to, but hope is hard.

The reading for the first Sunday in Advent starts in dramatic fashion:

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves..."

Does that sound like your life at the moment?

It can be easy to pay attention to the signs of disaster, they are all over the news, in our social media feeds and dominate our information intake. War in Russia and Ukraine, daily tragedies in Israel, Syria and Palestine and all the violence and injustice that is part of our everyday lives.

But Jesus has an answer.

Look at the fig trees.

Look at any tree.

Jesus here doesn't use fancy philosophical words or mystic mumbo jumbo, he simply directs us to the signs that summer is coming. Signs given by God through Creation, God's plan for us begins at the beginning.

The Gospel passage warns us of two traps in response to a seemingly hopeless world – do not distract yourself and do not give into despair:

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life"

Or as Eugene Petersen's The Message translation has it:

"But be on your guard. Don't let the sharp edge of your expectation get dulled by parties and drinking and shopping."

Distraction and despair.

God's promise from the beginning is one of hope, the signs of summer are there if we look for them!

Every year around September my wife and I look out at our paddocks, all five acres of them and the horses that we graze on them, and we wonder what we did wrong, how on earth we are going to feed our horses, what have we done to let the grass get so short?

And then, every year in October when I am out on the mower keeping the front lawn mowed every weekend we watch the

grass spring up – the signs of Spring and Summer are there, we are reminded to have hope.

On a global scale alongside the “distress among the nations” are signs of reconciliation and peace. Love in families, new relationships, the reduction of plastics being added to our oceans and deforestation of the Amazon, signs of victory in the battle against Malaria and advances in sustainable energy across the globe.

God’s plan for us begins at the beginning, human beings are made in God’s image and God delights in walking and talking with the humans in the Garden. This is God’s hope for us, God’s promise, that once again God’s peace and love will be “on earth as it is in heaven”.

# Prayers

## Sunday 1 December

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of life, for the opportunity for joy, love and growth in provides.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.

Give us the strength to believe in your promise, to be alert for the signs of your coming Kingdom. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.

Teach us to love you and each other the way that you love us: to build your Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.

## Monday 2 December

Loving God,

You who were there at the beginning, are with us now and will be with us always:

Keep our hearts and minds fixed on you.

Keep us from despair and distraction.

Teach us to be people of hope, alert to the signs of your coming, faithful to your call to care for those in need, to love our neighbours as ourselves.

In your name Father, Son and Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

# Tuesday 3 December

Faithful God,

You have kept your promises throughout countless generations, keep our hearts and minds set on you:

Like Abraham who followed you to a new future:

*keep our eyes fixed on you.*

Like Moses who trusted you to keep his people safe in the wilderness:

*keep our eyes fixed on you.*

Like Deborah who answered your call and led her people:

*keep our eyes fixed on you.*

Like Daniel who stayed faithful in the Lion's den:

*keep our eyes fixed on you.*

Like Mary, Martha's sister who chose to sit at your feet and learn your wisdom:

*keep our eyes fixed on you.*

Like Mary who bore you, raised you and kept vigil over you:

*keep our eyes fixed on you.*

Loving God, keep us from the anxieties and priorities of the world around us.

Remind us of your promise and keep our eyes fixed on you.

Amen.

## Wednesday 4 December

In the beginning You created the heavens and the earth, You made humans in Your image and put us in your Garden to till and keep it. Strengthen us to play our part, to answer your call and build Your Kingdom. Your promise for us began at the beginning, teach us to be ready to receive your gifts and use them to till and keep the earth and your people as we share in the fulfilment of your plan for us. Amen.

## Thursday 5 December

Loving God, you promise us everlasting life,  
enable us to receive your promise.

Loving God, you promise us a place in your future,  
keep us awake to your presence in our lives.

Loving God, you promise us your Kingdom,  
teach us to play our part in building your Kingdom, today,  
tomorrow and forever. Amen.

## Friday 6 December

Jesus,

You pointed us to the budding leaves of the fig tree, to pay attention to all of the trees of Creation to remind us of the signs of summer. Guide us to look for all the signs of the fulfilment of your promise to us: signs of care for Creation, signs of love within families, communities and around the world. Teach us to see the signs and to be the signs of your coming Kingdom.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

# Saturday 7 December

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus. As we prepare to celebrate his coming at Christmas, fill our hearts so that we might follow His example and help build your Kingdom.

Keep our eyes fixed on you.

Guide our hands to care for those in need.

Keep us awake to your presence in our lives and our focus on joy, hope, love and peace:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

# How to make an Advent Wreath



*You will need:*

- 5 candles

Four for the outside of your wreath and the "Jesus" candle for the centre. Traditionally three of the outside candles are purple and one pink, but if you are using plain candles you could tie coloured ribbon or paper around the bottom of your candles.

- A flat plate for the base
- An oasis ring or a chicken wire ring
- Greenery or tinsel

## *Instructions*

- Place your oasis or wire ring onto your base.
- Place your 4 candles equidistant around your oasis or wire ring.
- Decorate your ring with greenery etc.
- Place the Jesus candle in the centre of your wreath.

## *How to use your wreath*

- Light your first candle each day of week 1 of Advent or on the first Sunday.
- During the second week you light the first candle plus a second one,
- On the third week you light the third candle, (The pink one), plus the first two.
- On the fourth week all 4 outside candles will be lit.
- On Christmas day the Jesus candle is lit for Jesus' birthday.
- You may like to burn the Jesus candle until the end of Epiphany.

# PROPHETS

Dr Alex Banks

The prophetic voice resounds with particular potency during the Advent season, serving as a clarion call that pierces through the noise of our world and prepares our hearts for the coming of Christ. As we journey through this second week of Advent, the words of the prophets, especially Isaiah and Malachi, become our guides, illuminating the path toward the manger. Their messages, echoing across millennia, speak of renewal, restoration, comfort, and challenge. Isaiah paints vivid pictures of deserts blooming and wilderness transforming, metaphors for the radical change that the Messiah's arrival heralds in our spiritual landscape. This imagery reminds us that Advent is a time of inner renewal, where the parched places of our souls are invited to flourish under God's nurturing presence. The prophets also speak of a divine Shepherd, tenderly gathering His flock, carrying the weak and gently leading the vulnerable. This comforting image is juxtaposed with the call for preparation – a preparation that involves both external actions and a deep, internal refining process. Malachi's words about the refiner's fire and fuller's soap challenge us to examine our hearts, allowing God to purify our motives and actions. The prophetic voice during Advent is not merely a voice of gentle consolation; it is also a voice of urgent exhortation. It calls us to "make straight the paths" and

"prepare the way of the Lord," echoing John the Baptist's later proclamation.

This preparation involves active participation in God's work of justice and righteousness. The prophets remind us that true preparation for Christ's coming involves both personal holiness and social justice – caring for the poor, championing the cause of the oppressed, and working towards a world that reflects God's shalom. As we heed these prophetic calls, we find ourselves joining an age-old chorus of expectation and hope. The prophets teach us to live in the tension of the "already but not yet," celebrating the first advent of Christ while eagerly anticipating His return. Their words infuse our Advent journey with a sense of urgency and purpose, reminding us that we are not passive observers but active participants in God's unfolding plan of redemption. In this season of waiting and watching, the prophetic voice challenges us to remain alert, to keep our lamps trimmed and burning, ready for the Bridegroom's arrival. It instills in us a holy discontent with the status quo, urging us to envision and work towards the world as God intends it to be. As we listen to the prophets this Advent, may their words stir us to deeper faith, bolder action, and more sincere hope, preparing us not just to celebrate Christ's birth but to fully embrace His transformative presence in our lives and our world.

# Prayers

Sunday 8 December 2024

Lord of Refinement and Redemption,

As the prophet Malachi foretold,  
You send Your messenger to prepare the way.  
Purify us like gold and silver,  
That we may bring offerings in righteousness.

In the tender mercy of our God,  
The dawn from on high breaks upon us.  
Shine Your light on those who dwell in darkness,  
And guide our feet into the way of peace.

Make straight the paths in the wilderness of our hearts,  
Let every valley be filled and mountain made low.  
May all flesh see Your salvation,  
As Your glory is revealed among us.

We pray for Your church, O Lord,  
That our love may abound more and more.  
Fill us with the fruits of righteousness,  
To the glory and praise of Your name.

Grant us the voice of the prophet,  
To proclaim Your coming with boldness.  
May we, like John in the desert,  
Prepare the way for Your arrival.

Refiner's fire, Holy flame,  
Burn away all that hinders Your coming.  
Make us ready to greet You with joy,  
When You appear in Your temple.

In the name of Christ, our coming King,  
Who was, and is, and is to come,  
Amen.

## Monday 9 December 2024

Lord of restoration and renewal,  
As the desert blooms with abundance,  
May our hearts flourish with Your presence.  
In the parched land of our souls,  
Let Your living water spring forth.

Strengthen our weak hands,  
Make firm our feeble knees.  
Fill us with courage to face our fears,  
For You come to save us.

Open our eyes to see Your glory,  
Unstop our ears to hear Your voice.  
Let the lame leap like deer,  
And the mute tongue shout for joy.

Guide us on Your holy way,  
Where the redeemed shall walk.  
Fill us with everlasting joy,  
As we journey towards Your eternal Zion.

In the name of Christ, our coming King. Amen.

# Tuesday 10 December 2024

Comforting Shepherd,

Your voice calls out in the wilderness,  
Preparing the way for Your coming.  
Smooth the rough places in our hearts,  
And make straight the crooked paths of our lives.

Like a shepherd, gather us in Your arms,  
Carry us close to Your heart.  
Gently lead those with young,  
And seek out the lost among us.

May we proclaim Your glory among the nations,  
And Your marvellous deeds among all peoples.  
For You come to judge the world in righteousness,  
And the people with Your truth.

As we await Your return, O Lord,  
Fill us with hope and expectation. Amen.

# Wednesday 11 December 2024

Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth,

You do not faint or grow weary,  
Your understanding no one can fathom.  
Give strength to the weary,  
And increase the power of the weak.

Though we stumble and fall,  
Renew our strength in You.  
May we soar on wings like eagles,  
Run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint.

We come to You, heavy-laden,  
Seeking the rest You promise.  
Teach us to take Your yoke upon us,  
To learn from Your gentle and humble heart.

In Your mercy, O Lord,  
Refresh our souls and bodies. Amen.

# Thursday 12 December 2024

Righteous Redeemer,

You take hold of our right hand,  
Saying to us, "Do not fear; I will help you."  
Transform the wilderness of our world,  
Into a haven of justice and peace.

May the poor and needy find water,  
And their parched tongues be satisfied.  
Plant in the desert cedar and acacia,  
Myrtle and olive in the wasteland.

Let all people see and know,  
That Your hand has done this.  
You, the Holy One of Israel,  
Have created it for Your glory.

As we await Your coming, O Lord,  
Fill us with wonder at Your mighty works.  
Amen.

# Friday 13 December 2024

Divine Teacher,

Lead us in the way we should go,  
Direct our steps on the path of righteousness.  
May we be like trees planted by streams of water,  
Bearing fruit in due season.

Keep us from the way of the wicked,  
And the path of evildoers.  
Let us delight in Your law,  
Meditating on it day and night.

Grant us wisdom to discern Your voice,  
In a world filled with competing sounds.  
May we recognise Your coming in our midst,  
And respond with joy and obedience.

As we prepare for Your arrival, O Lord,  
Shape us according to Your will.  
Amen.

# Saturday 14 December

## (John of the Cross):

God of mystics and teachers,

We remember Your servant John of the Cross,  
Whose life illuminated the path to You.  
In the dark night of our souls,  
Be our guiding light and constant companion.

May we, like John, seek union with You,  
Through contemplation and self-discipline.  
Strip away all that hinders our journey,  
Until we are left with You alone.

As we traverse this Advent season,  
Deepen our longing for Your presence.  
May our hearts become a dwelling place,  
Prepared for the coming of Christ.

In the spirit of John's mystical poetry,  
Draw us into the transforming flame of Your love.  
Amen.

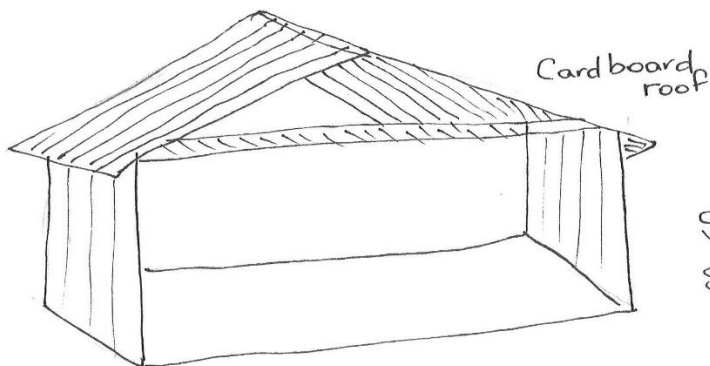
# How to make a Christmas Manger Scene

*You will need*

- Shoebox for the stable
- Some cardboard for roof (Cut from a carton)
- A matchbox for the manger
- Old fashioned wooden pegs and pipe cleaners for the people or make from playdough
- One jelly baby for the child or can be made from playdough
- Fabric and ribbon scraps for clothes
- Playdough or cardboard for animals
- Dried grass for hay.
- Paint or coloured paper
- Glue

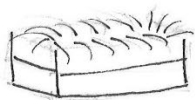
## *Instructions*

- Paint brown or cover shoebox
- Cut a strip of cardboard for roof ( as wide as the depth of your box and one and a half times as long . Fold in half and glue onto box to form a roof.
- Make manger by gluing the inner section of the box onto the top of the outer section. Paint it brown. Fill with dried grass for hay. Wrap jelly baby or playdough baby in white cloth ready to place in manger.
- Assemble animals and paint.
- If using pegs for people , wrap pipe cleaner around the "head" of the peg. Cut rectangles of fabric for clothes. Fold in halves and cut small hole to poke head through. Tie ribbon for belt. Use other scraps for head dress. Mary is traditionally dressed in blue. Make Joseph, shepherds, angels and kings. Beards and hair can be made from cotton wool or unravelled knitting wool.
- Assemble your Manger scene
- During Advent place the animals around the manger. On Christmas Eve, add Mary and Joseph, then the Christ child . Add angels and shepherds Christmas morning, and the wise men at Epiphany.



Cardboard  
roof

Shoebbox  
Stable



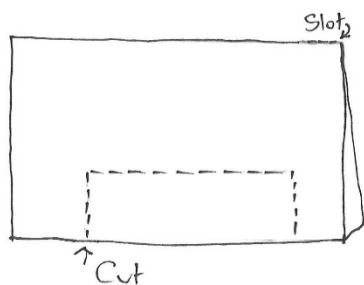
Matchbox  
Manger



Peg people

Use pipe cleaners for arms  
Fabric scraps & ribbon for clothes  
Shepherds and Wise men can  
also be made.

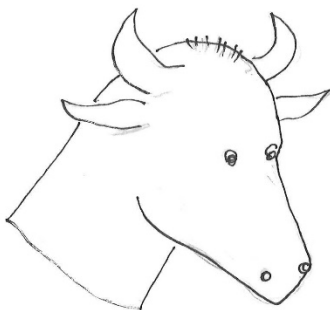
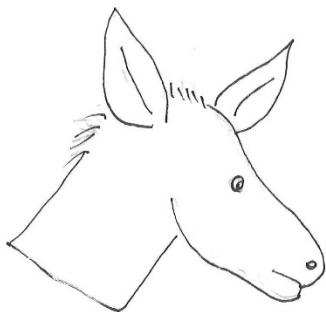
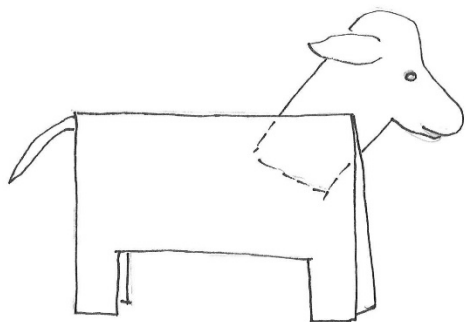
To make animals for your crib.



Fold squares of thin card in halves.

You will need a small square for a sheep, larger for cows and donkey.

Cut along dotted lines for legs. Add head in the slot. Add wool tail. Use cotton wool on sheep and paint or stick fabric on cow and donkey.



# JOHN THE BAPTIST

Rev'd Jeremy & Rev'd Claire Morgan

In the passage from Luke 3:7-18, we encounter John the Baptist, who stands as a powerful voice calling the people to repentance. He begins his ministry by addressing the crowds with the stark words, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Luke 3:7). John's boldness captures the importance and urgency of his mission, reminding us that true repentance involves a profound transformation of the heart and life.

Just as John warns his listeners "do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,'" (Luke 3:8), likewise we today cannot expect that simply because we may have come from a Christian family or a previously Christian culture, that we can call ourselves a 'good person' or a 'good Christian' – we must all pray for faithfulness and repentance.

John's proclamation goes beyond mere words; he challenges the people to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:8). His emphasis on action reveals that faith is not just a matter of belief but must manifest in our deeds. As he prepares the way for the Messiah, John models a life of humility, saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is

coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals." (Luke 3:16).

John's awareness of his role to call people to prepare for Jesus, invites us to reflect on our own call to speak out and lead others to Christ.

The passage culminates with John proclaiming the good news of salvation, reminding us that repentance is not an end in itself but a pathway to joy and hope. As he prepares the hearts of the people for Christ's coming, we are invited to embrace this spirit of anticipation and readiness – especially in this season of Advent.

In this Advent season, may we be inspired by John the Baptist's example to seek genuine repentance and prepare our hearts for the joyful arrival of our Saviour.

# Prayers

*You are invited to pray the following prayers over this week, adapted from Common Worship, Church of England:*

## Sunday 15 December 2024

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord and baptised them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptised into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

## Monday 16 December 2024

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages. Amen.

## Tuesday 17 December

Heavenly Father, you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son: forgive us our unreadiness to receive him. Lord Jesus, you were proclaimed by John the Baptist: help us also to prepare your way. Holy Spirit, you speak through the prophets: make us attentive to hear your word. Amen.

## Wednesday 18 December

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Thursday 19 December

People of God: Return - You are called to be God's own! From the mountains announce the good news! God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. Thank you for making us your children. Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

## Friday 20 December

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to follow the example of John the Baptist and meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# Saturday 21 December

Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.

# How to make a Christmas Angel

You may like to use this for the top of your tree.

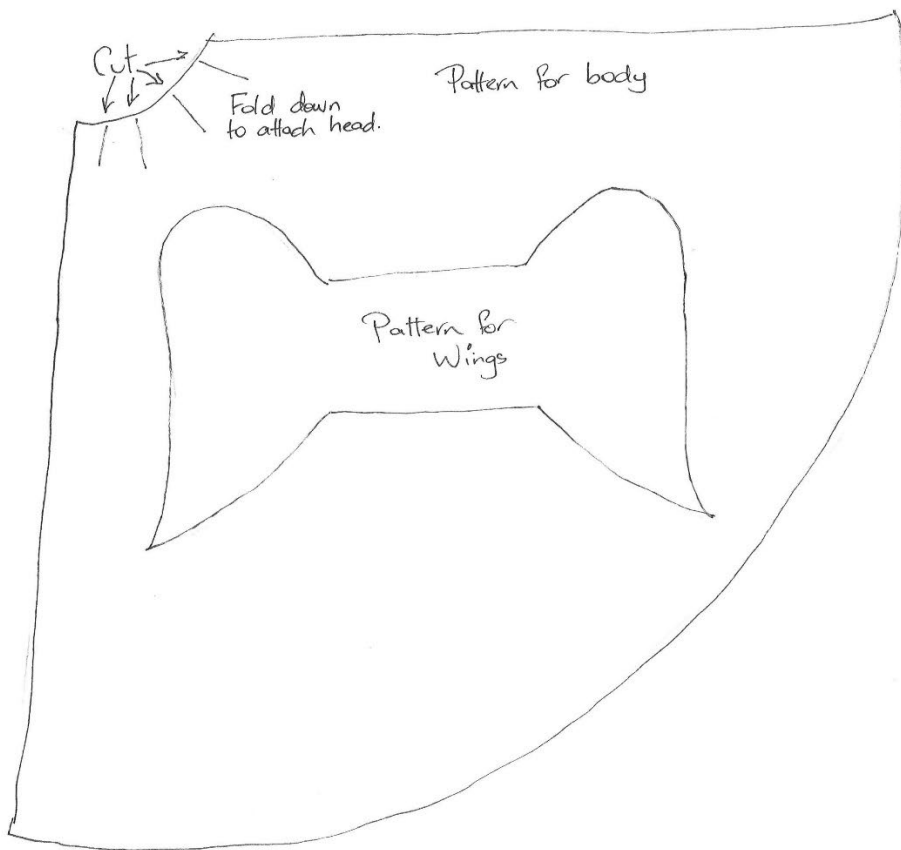
*You will need:*

- Stiff white paper
- Cotton wool
- A ping pong ball or foam ball
- Tinsel
- Glitter
- Glue or sticky tape

*Instructions*

- Make a cone shape from the paper and secure with glue or sticky tape. At the pointy end cut about 1 cm slits down your cone and fold back. Glue or tape the ball for the head.
- Cut wings from your paper. Decorate with glitter. Attach to the back of your angel.
- Stick cotton wool onto ball for hair, then a circle of tinsel for the halo.

Angel



## Week 4, Luke 1: 39 - 56

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# MARY

Renate Peacock

In the verses preceding Luke 1 : 39-56, the mother of Jesus, Mary learns that 'You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will call him Jesus'. (Luke 1: v. 31). Mary was not only very young but also a virgin. Understandably she questioned how the birth of Jesus was to be fulfilled. The angel refers to her relative Elizabeth who has also conceived a son, foretelling the birth of John the Baptist. In her simple but life changing faith, Mary then says to the angel 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word'. (Luke 1: 38). What an inspiring and amazing statement of faith from one as young as Mary and a statement which went on to change the trajectory of human history.

Having learned from the angel that she will give birth to the Son of God, Mary hurries to visit Elizabeth in the hill country. In the conversation that ensues as Elizabeth and Mary meet, Elizabeth foretells the birth of Jesus without Mary even telling her that she is pregnant. Elizabeth not only prophesies but blesses with the words she speaks to Mary (Luke 1: 42 - 45). She indicates that Mary is blessed not only for her status as the mother of the Lord, but also for her complete trust in God's promises.

By greeting Mary with honour and affection, Elizabeth also overturns social expectations. Mary is unmarried and pregnant and would expect social judgment, shame and even ostracism from her kinswoman. But being old, Elizabeth would have known what it was like to be outcast within her community for her inability to bear a child. She turns her own negative and then joyful experience into supporting and encouraging Mary. Instead of shaming Mary, she welcomes, blesses and celebrates her, even treating her as more honourable than herself. What a wonderful and loving relationship Mary and Elizabeth enjoy!

The passage Luke 1: v. 46 - 56 is rightly entitled Mary's Song of Praise or the Magnificat. This is Mary's psalm of praise and exultation of God and is the outpouring of Mary's thoughts and feelings as she worships the Lord. In these verses, Mary speaks of the spirit and the power of God. She informs us that generations to come will call her blessed - and rightly so.

# Prayers

## Sunday 22 December

May we, like Elizabeth and Mary, trust that God is coming to save and free us. May we, like them, become a community that supports each other as we hope and wait. Amen.

## Monday 23 December

Gentle woman, quiet light,  
Morning star, so strong and bright;  
Gentle mother, peaceful dove,  
Teach us wisdom, teach us love.  
Amen.

*(Hymn by Carey Landry).*

## Tuesday 24 December

Lord, let us see your kindness and glory in our midst. May we be your gospel, servants of your son Jesus and instruments of His salvation to all our neighbours. Amen.

## Wednesday 25 December

Lord, help us to be instruments of your will just like Mary. Help us to be faithful to your calling and to do your will as we journey through life's joys, challenges and trials. Amen.

## Thursday 26 December

For you are our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Once more upon your people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine. Amen.

*(Advent hymn).*

## Friday 27 December

My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
My spirit finds joy in God my saviour. Amen.

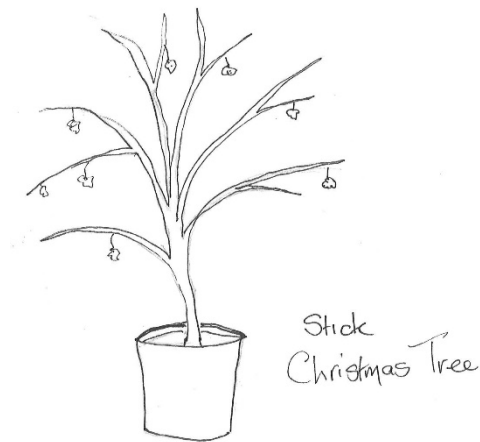
*(Luke 1:46)*

## Saturday 28 December

Lord, like Mary, give me an open heart to listen and a willing spirit to respond. Your prophets announced that people will come from the ends of the earth to acclaim the Saviour's presence. Help me to listen to these new and surprising voices and teach me your ways, O Lord. Amen.

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# How to make a Christmas Tree



*You will need:*

- A dried leafless tree branch
- A heavy vase or pot to hold your tree
- Silver or gold spray paint if desired
- Decorations – You can use gumnuts, seed pods, pretty leaves, old Christmas wrapping or cards, coloured paper, paint, coloured string or ribbon.

### *Instructions*

- If you want your tree gold or silver, spray paint your branch.
- Place your branch into the vase or pot. You will probably need to put something (sand, soil, or rocks) inside the pot to weigh it down.

# EXTRA MATERIAL

## *Advent Prayers and Song*

### Advent 1 – the Advent hope

Jesus said, 'Keep awake,  
for you do not know on what day your  
Lord is coming.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

*We sing:*

Advent candles tell their story

as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory,

'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.

Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,

changed for gladness

on that Day.

## Advent 2 – the prophets

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The second candle is lit and this response is used  
Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

*We sing:*

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness  
on that Day.

Prophet voices loudly crying,  
making pathways clear;  
glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
calling all to hear.  
Through their message - challenged, shaken –  
hearts awaken:  
God is near!

## Advent 3 – John the Baptist

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The third candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

*We sing:*

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness  
on that Day.

John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready  
for the Lord.'

## Advent 4 – Mary

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'

I am the servant of the Lord.

Let it be to me according to his word.

The fourth candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

*We sing:*

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness,  
on that Day.

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
was to give Christ room.  
She gave God a human dwelling  
in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story?  
- cross and glory;  
empty tomb!

# Christmas Day – Jesus

Joy to the world!

The Lord has come!

The central candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

*We sing:*

Advent candles tell their story

on this Christmas Day.

Those who waited for God's glory:

they prepared the way.

Christ is with us: loving, giving,

in us living,

here today!

## Angel Voices, Ever Singing

E. G. Monk, 1819-1900

Angel Voices  
8.5.8.5.8.4.3

First system of musical notation for 'The Sound of Silence'. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The notation is for a piano accompaniment, showing the right and left hands. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a bass line of quarter notes. Chord symbols are written above the staff: D, G, Dsus4, G, A7, Bmin, D, G, Asus4, and A.

5

D Bmin7 E A Bmin Bmin7 E7 Asus4 A

F#min Amaj7 D#m7b5 B      Emin Gmaj7 C#m7b5 A      D      G Bmin      Asus4 A7      D



**Ministry  
Development**

**2024**

**[www.ballaratanglican.org.au/mdc](http://www.ballaratanglican.org.au/mdc)**