

Living FAITH

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

1st Sunday of Advent – Year A Primary

“Watch and be Ready”

WE GATHER

God of Hope;
As we enter this Advent season,
help keep our advent flames of hope, love,
joy and peace burning bright.
Help us prepare our hearts in readiness for
the coming of a humble peacemaker,
sent to heal and free the world.

We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.

Amen

WE LISTEN

A reading from Mark (13-33-37)

So watch out and be ready! You don’t know when the time will come. It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything. He tells each of them what to do, and he orders the guard to keep alert. So be alert! You don’t know when the master of the house will come back. It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning. But if he comes suddenly, don’t let him find you asleep. I tell everyone just what I have told you. Be alert!

For hope:
That advent may be a season of renewed *hope*
for all who have been feeling hopeless.
Lord, hear us.

For love:
That advent may be a reminder to
share the *love* of Jesus to all.
Lord, hear us.

For joy:
That all anxiety and sadness be replaced
with the *joyful* spirit of advent.

For peace:
That communities in conflict use this advent season
to come together in *peace* and harmony.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.



WE REFLECT

Christmas is a really exciting time of year. Already there are Christmas carols playing in the shopping centres, Christmas lights blinking in front yards throughout the neighbourhood and Advent Calendars being opened as we speak.

In the rush to buy presents and get packed for the trip to the beach, we can often forget that advent is actually a time wait with patient and joyful hearts. What are we meant to wait for exactly? Well... in a word: Jesus. As Christians, we are called to spend the next four weeks to prepare our hearts, so that when Christmas morning comes it is not the sight of presents and Christmas feasts that we are excited about. Instead, it's the birth of a humble little peacemaker that came into the world to bring healing and freedom for all: Jesus.

Since COVID-19 may make our Christmas celebrations look and feel a little different this year, 2020 is a perfect opportunity to make Christmas really special, by focusing only on what really matters this Christmas: the hope, joy, love and peace that Jesus brings into the world.

Will you give yourself the gift of a special Advent this year by waiting patiently with a hope-filled heart?

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Jesus,
Thank you for reminding us that the most important part of Christmas is spreading hope, joy, love and peace.
In the busyness of Christmas,
help us to wait patiently and to be alert
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Son of the Living God.

Amen.

***In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen***

"The season of Advent, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints!"

- Pope Francis

Advent Candle Anne Nygard
Licensed under Creative Commons Zero (CC0) via https://unsplash.com/photos/RItCL_kH-gY
Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)

