



DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 2/YEAR 1 /WEEK 5 CELEBRATING ADVENT

SEAL link – New beginnings (the beginning of the Church’s Year)

Values – Hope

A helpful focus for use when speaking of Advent is an Advent Ring with five candles – 4 red and 1 white (in the centre), or 3 purple, one rose and one white (in the centre).

One candle could be lit for each act of worship for the week to re-create what happens in Advent in church for the Sundays leading up to Christmas itself. Make sure that you light the last candle on the final day of term!

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Use some or all of the following:</p> <p>People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!</p> <p>God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!</p> <p>God with us; God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!</p> <p>We are God’s children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!</p>	<p>THE PATRIARCHS (Light 1 candle) – whole school Genesis 12 v 1-8 When lighting the first candle, we are encouraged to think of the ancestors of Jesus, of where Jesus came from. It is important to remember that his parents were Jewish. God made a promise to Abraham that from him would come a nation that would be as plentiful as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand in the desert. Jesus was one of these promised descendants who was born as the result of another, later promise from God (see following act of worship). Think about the importance of promises and of having and keeping faith in those promises.</p>	<p>Take time to be still during Advent in readiness for Christmas. Use Advent music for reflection. Think about the promises which you make and which are made to you and about the most important promise of all – that Jesus would come.</p>	<p><i>Say this short prayer together each day:</i></p> <p>Lord Jesus, Light of the world, As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.</p>
	<p>THE PROPHETS (Light 2 candles) – whole school Isaiah 1 v 6-7, Micah 4 v 3-4 The focus here is upon the verses in the Old Testament which foretell the coming of Jesus so we need to get ready. What are the signs that Christmas is coming? (include the Advent ring in this). What are the signs of the seasons and how do we prepare? How do we prepare for Christmas? How do we prepare for the coming of Jesus? In I Thessalonians 3 v10-13, Paul tells us to be strong in faith, and to increase our love for God and for each other. How can we do this so we will be ready for Jesus this Christmas?</p>	<p>Introduce a school display (Come Lord Jesus) on which you invite pupils to write their own prayers about getting ready for Christmas – use some of these as the week progresses</p>	<p>OR</p> <p><u>Use some or all:</u></p> <p>People of God: shout and sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s peace. All God’s people say / shout: Amen.</p>
	<p>JOHN THE BAPTIST (Light 3 Candles) – whole school Mark 1 v 1-12 (also Malachi 3 v 1-4) John the Baptist who was the cousin of Jesus spoke about him as the one who was to come. John said that this person would be mighty and that he (John) was not worthy even to untie his sandals. John was a colourful</p>		



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<p>(taken from Transforming Worship, The Archbishops' Council 2006)</p>	<p>character – especially popular with pupils for eating locusts and honey! His message was about repentance and being washed clean from sin which is another way of preparing for Christmas during Advent. Demonstrate using a messy task where hands get very dirty – wipe dirty hands on a white piece of cloth – then wash hands very thoroughly with strong soap and dry on another piece of white cloth leaving no mark at all. Contrast the 2 pieces of cloth to show how people forget and disobey God which can make them messy 'I messed up' (like the stained cloth) but that God's love and mercy can wash people clean (like the clean cloth)</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, Thank you for forgiving us when we let you down. Please refresh us with your love so that we can show in our lives the good ways you want us to live. Be with us as we get ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus. AMEN</p> <p>Pray through what has been learnt about prayer in the Magnificat.</p> <p>and/or</p> <p>Lord Jesus, Light of Light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest. Amen.</p>	<p>Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all. Lord, bring us today into Christ's light. All God's people say / shout: Amen.</p> <p>One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God. Lord, bring us today into Christ's love. All God's people say / shout: Amen.</p> <p>People of God: shout and sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.</p> <p>(taken from Transforming Worship, The Archbishops' Council 2006)</p>
	<p>MARY (Light 4 Candles) – Key Stage or class Luke 1 v 46-55 This is the song of joy which Mary sang when she visited Elizabeth, her cousin, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. She expresses joy at being chosen as the mother of Jesus. This is a song which can help us to pray. For younger pupils focus on the first of these phrases – extend for older pupils/groups. Focus on some of the particular phrases and ask who or what this points to in terms of our prayers: <i>I am glad because of God my Saviour. He cares for me. (v 47-48)</i> Give thanks to God for caring for us even when we do not care enough about him <i>God drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of power(v 51-52)</i> It is hard to be the leader of a government or country. We should pray that all leaders might be wise and humble. <i>God gives the hungry good things to eat (v 53)</i> Pray for those in need of food especially and for our part in helping to meet that need is important especially amidst the excesses of Christmas</p>		



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