

This Week's Worship: Getting Ready for Jesus- Keep Awake!

Opening

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

We come together to say sorry

We come together to say Thank you

We come together to ask for God's help

We come together to hear God's story

We come together to celebrate God's love.

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

Saying Sorry

Hold onto a stone and think about things that you have done this week you would like to say sorry for.

God loves us and forgives us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.

For times this week when we have made others sad.

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not helped others

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not looked after your creation,

We are sorry

For times this week when we have been selfish

We are sorry

Put the stone in a bowl of water

As we leave these things behind, may God forgive us and give us a new, clean start today.

Amen

Saying thank you

To join in you will need: some slips of paper, some pens and an empty jam jar (you can join in without this for the first few weeks but can then join in when you have had the time to put some things in the jar!)

Ask each person to draw or write down on one of the slips something they would like to say thank you for and put it in the jar. As we pray, pull a slip out of the jar and say thank you for what is written on it.

Continue to fill the jar during the week.

God, you are amazing and you have given us good things. We thank you for all your gifts to us.

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...
Amen

Continue until everyone has had a chance to say something.

Story and response

Listen to this week's story or read a story from the Bible. This week's story is from Mark 13

I wonder which part of this story you liked the most?
I wonder what surprised you about this story?
I wonder what this story makes you feel?
I wonder where you are in this story?
Do you wonder anything about this story?

Prayers

Just like in the story, where the servants have to keep ready for the owner of the house returning, in Advent we are waiting for Jesus to come back and to bring that new life where heaven is here on earth and all of the bad things in the world have been wiped away. Are you good at waiting? How does it feel when you get what you have been waiting for?

You will need: salt dough or air drying clay, a small candle

Make a long sausage shape with the clay and then curl it into a coil. Use a candle to make 25 holes in the sausage shape- spaced out from one end to the other. Put the candle at the very end of the coil and light it. Every day, move the candle one space towards the centre of the coil until it reaches the centre on Christmas day. Each day, when you light the candle read this prayer:

Pray: Jesus, thank you that you love us and want good things for us. Help us to stay ready for you coming again to bring light and new life to the world. Help us to be light in the darkness for other people as we wait. Amen.

Close

Wherever we come together,
God is with us.
God is here.

May God bless us.
May we know that we are loved
May we know that we are cared for.
May we know God's hope.

God is with us
God is here
Amen.

Extinguish the candle.