

Resources for Worship - Advent

An occasional series from the Diocesan Worship and Liturgy Committee

How do we make the season useful for Christians in a time the world has already been celebrating Christmas for weeks! This sheet attempts to give some ideas. We hope you find it stimulates your worship planning for Advent. Advent is a season filled with hope and expectation. It is easy to plan imaginative worship that is full of the Christmas hope, and relatively easy to give opportunities to help individuals prepare for this. What is much harder is to help people (and especially all ages) to engage with the hope of Christ coming again to claim the kingdom as his own. We have tried to address this a little but if you have any good ideas, please let us know.

Words of dismissal from Times and Seasons

Using these words for the dismissal each week in Advent, is very effective in heightening the sense of expectation and with minimal explanation can lead to thinking about the coming of the Kingdom

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.
With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.
In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.
In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.
As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



Advent Wreath

There are various different colours of candles you may wish to use, depending on what you wish to draw out. It is a good idea to co-ordinate colours with Advent wreaths in local schools

4 Red, 1 white
4 purple, 1 white
3 purple, 1 pink, 1 white. *the pink one is for Advent 3 (Gaudete) not Advent 4 (Our Lady!!)*



Many churches use an Advent Wreath in worship during Advent, but have you thought about how to embed it in the worship so that it amplifies the meaning of (for instance) the Gathering, rather than being merely an add-on before the children go out? Here is a possible structure. Do let us know if you use it in different ways.

Greeting

Half of opening hymn whilst ministers (and choir if room) gather around Advent Wreath

Kyrie Confession from 'Times and Seasons Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath'

Absolution

Collect

Light latest candle on ring (earlier candles already lit at start of service) whilst everyone says relevant prayer from Times and Seasons Advent Wreath material

End of first hymn while everyone moves to places and children go to Junior Church

1st reading

Personal preparation

It's good in Advent to offer space to reflect.

Try a simple said Compline regularly during Advent atmospherically lit with candles.

'Quiet Advent' - open up the church at 8pm one night early in Advent for people to come in and pray in the space and light candles. You might offer exposition in one corner, laying on of hands and anointing for healing in another, or offer confession or spiritual direction in another chapel. Wrap it all up with Compline at about 9.15pm.



Song

Christ be our light

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJq3bhdgQoc>

This is becoming better known but if you don't know it, it provides an evocative and easy to learn hymn that fits Advent themes beautifully. The copyright is covered by a Calamus license

Video

<https://skitguys.com/videos/item/come-thou-long-expected-jesus>

This would work well at an all age communion or a service with some fringe church members. It fits best the later Sundays in Advent.

Show it before the first hymn or use it in the sermon to talk about the story of salvation.



Alternatively, if you haven't seen it before, you may like <http://bustedhalo.com/video/advent-in-two-minutes> (and it's free!)

