

Advent and Christmas Liturgy:

In 2012 the Methodist Church is concentrating on deepening our discipleship, therefore for each week through Advent and Christmas we are encouraged to take up one discipleship challenge.



The liturgy continues through to the first Sunday after Christmas – New Year's Day

Advent hymn: (from Singing the Faith) Tune Angel Voices. CCLI License number: Advent Candles ©Mark Earey (b1965) Verse 6 © Linda Day 2011

1st Sunday in Advent: The Promise

Reader: We have the promise that one day we shall see your kingdom come, one day all will worship you.

We light the 1st advent candle

Reader: We long for your kingdom

All: Come Lord Jesus, Come

Reader: We long for your presence with us

All: Come Lord Jesus, come.

Reader: We worship you

ALL: Come Lord Jesus, Come.

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

Discipleship challenge: this week commit yourself to doing one thing that will enhance the worship for your community. Some suggestions:

- Pray for the preacher
- Spend time before worship preparing yourself to meet with God
- Offer to read or take part in worship
- Talk to someone about worship leading or preaching

2nd Sunday in Advent: The Challenge

Reader: Through the prophets you have challenged your people to act with justice and mercy .

We light the 2nd advent candle

Reader: In a world in need of justice

All: You challenge us to act

Reader: In a world in need of peace

All: You challenge us to act

Reader: In a world in need of freedom

All: You challenge us to act

Reader: Come Lord Jesus come

ALL: and challenge us to act

We sing:

**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!**

Discipleship challenge: this week commit yourself to one act of justice. Some suggestions:

- **Make a donation to an organisation like Christian Aid who are seeking trade justice**
- **Replace a normal item of shopping with a fair trade one**
- **Identify the justice issues in your local community or work place and pray for God's wisdom**
- **Pray for the government as they continue to make financial decisions that often impact the poor hardest.**

3rd Sunday in advent: The Hope

Reader: John the Baptist spoke words of hope to a people longing for God to send someone to save them.

We light the 3rd advent candle

Reader: To those who grieve

All: Bring your hope

Reader: To those who struggle

All: Bring your hope

Reader: To those in need of compassion

All: Bring your hope

Reader: To all in need of hope

All: Come Lord Jesus Come.

We sing:

**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.**

Discipleship challenge:
this week commit
yourself to one act of
compassion. Some
suggestions:

- Visit someone who is in need of a sign of hope
- Spend some time listening to someone who needs to talk
- Give a small gift to a neighbour or work colleague in need of an act of kindness
- Volunteer to help or donate to a homeless charity or a project like Mission Trinity or Selby Food Bank

4th Sunday in Advent: The Gift

Reader: Mary responded to your gift of salvation with the gift of her obedience and devotion.

We light the 4th advent candle

Reader: We thank you for your gift of new life

All: Come Lord Jesus, Come.

Reader: We thank you for the gift of hope

All: Come Lord Jesus, Come.

Reader: Come Lord Jesus, Come

All: Accept our gift of worship today

We sing:

**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.**

Discipleship challenge:
this week commit
yourself to an act of
devotion. Some
suggestions:

- Read a short piece of scripture and reflect on it
- Read next Sunday's lectionary readings before Sunday
- Take time to reflect on a piece of art work
- Read a devotional book

Christmas Day – The Light

Reader: Jesus, Light of the world

ALL: We worship you

Reader: Jesus, born as one of us

ALL: We worship you

Reader: Jesus, God with us

ALL: We worship you

We light the Christ candle

Reader: Jesus Light of the world

All: Come, be with us today

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.**

Discipleship challenge:

Throughout the Christmas celebrations take a brief moment each day to celebrate Christ the light of the world. Some suggestions:

- On Christmas Day and each day this week why not light a candle
- Take time before each main meal to pray
- Listen to a piece of Christmas music that speaks of the light coming into the world.

New Years Day: The Journey

Reader: As the wise men journeyed to worship the new born King, so we come to worship offering our gifts, offering our lives.

We light the Christ candle

Reader: At the start of this New Year we recognise your call on our lives

All: We commit ourselves to a life of discipleship

Reader: As we journey through this year

ALL: Come, be with us

We sing:

**We commit ourselves to learning
On this New Year's Day
What it means to follow, yearning
'Be with us' we pray.
As your people we are joyful.
Ever hopeful
Let us stay.**

Discipleship challenge: this New Year commit yourself to deepening your discipleship. Some suggestions:

- Take the E100 challenge
- Join a bible study group, fellowship group
- Consider what new thing God is calling you to this year
- Develop a habit of daily prayer
- Talk to your minister or stewards about using your gifts within the local church or at circuit level
- Commit yourself to praying for one person throughout this year and inviting them to church.
- Be prepared to tell your story to someone.