

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Advent Sunday



Today's Gospel reading: Mark 13: 24-37

Today's Gospel reading finishes with a rallying cry to "keep awake"!

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus's first coming. It is also a time of preparation for Jesus's second coming – whenever that might be.

So Advent is a time of looking back and looking forward!

As someone said, rather poetically, we are "perched between memory and dream"

Today we light the first candle on our Advent wreath – the first candle of four lit on the four Sundays of Advent. Each of these reminds us of the different groups of people who pointed the way to Jesus. The liturgical, or Church, colour for Advent is purple – the colour of the first candle.

Today, we remember the Patriarchs – those fathers and founders of our faith, like Abraham, who first began to understand the nature of God and trusted in God's promises.... so pointing the way towards Jesus. Here is a prayer for lighting the first candle:

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

You could colour the candles on the picture below week by week and say the prayers - there will be another one next Sunday.



Advent Word Search

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



People who pointed the way to Jesus:

Abraham



God made a promise to Abraham.