

## First Sunday of Advent – year B

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### Preparation

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Read [Isaiah 64:1-9](#) and [Mark 13:24-37](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/adventb1.htm>

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452\\_115904\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115904_ENG_HTM.htm)

[http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming\\_faith.cfm?isarchive=1&id=265](http://www.cyberfaith.com/proclaiming_faith.cfm?isarchive=1&id=265)

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/watching-waiting.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/adv1les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/1Advent-b/A-1Advent-b.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwag.htm#ad1>

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Advent Wreath – 3 blue candles, one pink and one white in the centre  
(for an idea on how to make one check out this site at [Domestic Church](#) or this one from [Christian Crafters](#))
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Blue cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. As this is the first Sunday of a new season, take some time to talk with the children about the colour of the cloth and the four candles. Explain that this is all part of our getting to welcome Jesus and remember his birth. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the blue cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Advent wreath, and the Bible on the cloth. Light the first candle. Pray the following prayer together:

**God be with us, as we prepare,  
Jesus be with us, as we prepare,  
Holy Spirit be with us, as we prepare,  
Keep our hearts open for the coming new day. Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Write the word prepare up on the newsprint vertically down one side of the paper. With the children come up with a word for each letter in the word. Some ideas might be the following: *present, red, evergreen, people, advent, recall* and *everyone*. Explain to the children that in today's story that Jesus is urging everyone to be prepared for the coming of God's kingdom. Invite them to think about how they might prepare themselves for that coming.

## Story Time

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### Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story – on the floor with cushions or around a table

### Instructions

Teach the children the following chorus to the tune of *Row, row, row your boat*:

**Keep, keep, keep awake,  
We don't know when God will come.  
Everyone must get ready  
For the coming of God's Son.**

Jesus was sitting with his friends. They were sitting on a hill looking over the city of Jerusalem. As they were sitting and looking Jesus told them to keep awake.

**Keep, keep, keep awake,  
We don't know when God will come.  
Everyone must get ready  
For the coming of God's Son.**

“Remember”, Jesus said, “how the prophets of old, like Isaiah, would tell the people to pay attention to what God wants. Remember how Isaiah talked about how the people had forgotten to follow God. He told the people to pay attention for the signs from God.”

**Keep, keep, keep awake,  
We don't know when God will come.  
Everyone must get ready  
For the coming of God's Son.**

Jesus said to his friends, “You must be ready at all times. You will not know when or where God will bring the kingdom to the world. Remember the fig tree. When it comes time for its leaves to come out you know that summer will soon be here. So remember to be ready.”

**Keep, keep, keep awake,  
We don't know when God will come.  
Everyone must get ready  
For the coming of God's Son.**

Jesus continued to talk with his friends. He said, “You must keep awake. It will be like when a master leaves his house to go on a trip. He leaves his servants in charge and the doorkeeper keeping watch at the door. The servants and the doorkeeper do not know when the master will be get back. They do not know if he will come in the morning. They do not know if he will come late at night. They do not know if he will come in the afternoon. So you must all remember to keep awake!”

**Keep, keep, keep awake,  
We don't know when God will come.  
Everyone must get ready  
For the coming of God's Son.**

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Advent Wreath

*To help families consider more fully the season a wreath with candles will help them act out their faith at home.*

#### Materials needed

- 3 blue candles, one pink and one white candle per child (if you can get small stubby candles and not tall tapered ones, that would be best)
- green tissue paper
- glue
- heavy paper plates

#### Instructions

Glue the candles onto the heavy plates – the three blue and pink ones on the outside and the white one in the centre of the plate. Give each child a prepared plate. Have them crumple up the tissue paper so that it looks like green evergreen and get them to glue it around the base of the candles. Suggest to the children that their families light the candles just like they are lit for church – one new candle each week. If your church has a candle lighting liturgy have copies of that ready for the children to take home with them.

### Project Idea 2: Advent Sharing Calendar

*This response idea will help the children and their families prepare for the coming Christmas season by sharing in activities together.*

#### Materials needed

- the calendar at the end of the lesson
- blue construction paper
- glue and glitter

#### Instructions

Make copies of the calendar at the end of the lesson. Give each child a copy of the calendar. For those who cannot read, read a few of the suggested activities that are on the calendar. Have the children glue their calendars onto the blue construction paper. With the glue make stars on the edges of the calendar and the construction paper. Shake glitter over the glue stars. Have the children shake off the excess glue into a bowl or the garbage. Encourage the children to share their calendars with their families as they make their way through Advent to Christmas.

### **Project Idea 3: Keep Awake Trumpets**

#### **Materials needed**

- blue construction paper
- seasonal stickers
- stapler (and staples)
- markers

#### **Instructions**

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Help them to make a cone shape with it and staple it together where the two long sides join up. With the children print KEEP AWAKE on the side opposite of where the trumpet is stapled together. Let the children use the stickers to decorate their trumpets. Remind the children that Jesus wants us to keep awake and prepare for the coming of God's kingdom. Encourage them to share their trumpets with their families and the story that Jesus shared with them today.

### **Closing**

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Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle.  
Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**For a time to share,  
For a time to learn,  
For a time to prepare,  
We thank you God.  
Amen.**

## Advent Sharing Calendar

This year, Advent begins on \_\_\_\_\_ (4 Sundays before Christmas) and continues until the great celebration of Jesus’ birth on December 24. Here is a calendar that will help parish families make space for each other, others in their communities, and space for Jesus in the world.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sun. Advent</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
If you don’t already know it learn the Advent Carol <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i> . Sing the first verse & chorus as a grace during Advent.	Learn together the Collect prayer for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Can be found on p. 268 of the BAS. Say it as a family all through Advent.	Take time to think about those in your town who will go without this year. What as a family will you be doing to share God’s love with them?	For every person who can read or write in your family put 50 cents towards a charity of your choice.	Read together the story of the Annunciation – Luke 1:26-38. How will you answer God’s call to make room for Jesus in your life?	Make homemade Christmas Cards together to send to family and friends. Think about how you want to share God’s love with them.	Read a prophecy found in Isaiah on the coming of the Messiah (Is 11:1-9). How can we work with God for the coming of this promise?
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. Advent</b> For every pair of winter boots in your house put \$0.25 towards a charity of your choice. Remembering those who will go without boots.	<b>Monday</b> Arrange to visit some people who are shut in. Take them a gift of baking or some seasonal flowers to enjoy.	<b>Tuesday</b> Find a book about St. Nicholas and see how he is connected to Santa Claus. Share some oranges together.	<b>Wednesday</b> Together gather around a candle; think about all the blessings that the family has been given. How will you share them with others?	<b>Thursday</b> Look around your house, for every Christmas decoration that is already up put \$0.10 towards a charity of your choice.	<b>Friday</b> As the halfway mark comes this Advent season, sing together some of your favourite Christmas carols.	<b>Saturday</b> Spend time today making Christmas ornaments to share with family and friends.
<b>3rd Sun. Advent</b> Ask another family to join you as you go carolling to some people in the community who will not be able to get out this Advent season.	<b>Monday</b> As your family eats today – put \$0.50 for each meal towards a charity of your choice. Remember those who will not have enough to eat.	<b>Tuesday</b> Read about Mary’s visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45). Who do you need to visit to tell them about the coming of Jesus?	<b>Wednesday</b> As we get closer to the birth of Jesus think about what gift your family will be giving to the wider church in the next year.	<b>Thursday</b> Read together some favourite Christmas stories. Enjoy the closeness of the family at this time.	<b>Friday</b> Take some non-perishable food items to the local food bank or cupboard. Remember to include some Christmas extras in the gift.	<b>Saturday</b> Is there someone in your church family or community who will be alone this Christmas? Think about inviting them to join your celebrations.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sun. Advent</b> Take time to visit or call someone who has been important to the family this past year. Thank them for their gift of love to everyone.	<b>Monday</b> Go for an evening walk as a family – enjoy the lights and the sounds of the coming celebration.	<b>Tuesday</b> For every Christmas card that your family has received put 5 cents towards a charity of your choice. Give thanks for the love shared.	<b>Wednesday</b> Take time during prayers today to remember all those who will be lonely this Christmas season.	<b>Thursday</b> Count all the star ornaments you have. Give thanks today for the special star that leads us all to the birth of Jesus.	<b>Friday</b> Read together the Nativity story from Luke (Lk 2:1-20) and from Matthew (Mt 1:18-25). Reflect on God’s gift to the world.	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Celebrate with your church family the coming of Jesus into the world and the gift of love that God shares with us all.