

Advent 2025

Watching & Waiting

Diocese of Coventry
Prayer Resource



**What
do you
see?**



**DIOCESE^{OF}
COVENTRY**

coventry.anglican.org/advent

INTRODUCTION

From Bishop Sophie



AN ADVENT INVITATION

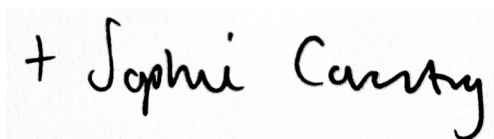
Dear Friends,

Advent has always been a time of expectation; of pausing, preparing and noticing the quiet ways God is at work. Before the birth of Jesus, people of faith were waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled. In our own time, we are invited to wait with hope and attentiveness for what God will do in and through His church today.

As we journey towards 2026 and seek God's shared vision and direction for the Diocese of Coventry, I invite us to enter this Advent season with hearts open to watch and wait for the signs of God's Kingdom among us.

Let us pray with eyes wide open to see what God is doing around us. What do you see?

With grace and peace to you this Advent,



**I wait for the Lord,
my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
Wait for the Lord,
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

Psalm 130:5-6

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

WHO IS THIS BOOKLET FOR?

In short, for everyone! We have designed this **Watching & Waiting Advent prayer resource** to be used in families and households, over the dinner table, in small groups, with a friend over coffee, or in personal prayer and reflection. We hope this is a gift to you as we watch and wait for signs of God's kingdom during this Advent season.

WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THIS GUIDE?

This short resource offers four weekly sets of reflections and activities. Each week includes a bible passage, a reflection, discussion questions, prayer points, a simple all-age 'Make & Do' activity, a collect and prayer. There will be videos of the key content at coventry.anglican.org/advent, or you could read and discuss the passages and prayers together in your community.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

We hope that you will be able to take this guide and fit it into the rhythms and patterns of your life. You might like to light a candle each time you stop and pray, or perhaps create an informal advent wreath for your household. Each week focuses on one biblical figure whose story points us to God's Kingdom and encourages us to live as signs of it, inspired by the tradition of the Advent journey.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Bishop Sophie would love to hear stories of signs of the Kingdom across our homes, churches, communities and diocese as we watch and wait together this Advent. There will be a **link each week** pointing you to a webpage you can use to share stories of what you see God doing around you. There will also be a **download & print form** for use throughout Advent and Christmas for groups to offer written feedback by Wednesday 14th January.

1. Watching & Waiting with Abraham & Sarah

BIBLE PASSAGE

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land I will show you...”

Read God’s call to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 12:1-9

REFLECTION

Abraham’s story begins with a call to leave behind what’s familiar and trust God for a promise he cannot yet see. God’s invitation begins not with certainty, but with trust — a willingness to walk into the unknown.

In Advent, we too wait for God’s promises to unfold, trusting that our true home is found in Him and that, through faith, we are part of His great family.



WATCH

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QUESTIONS

- What did you notice from the bible story?
- What can you see, as we look for signs of the kingdom in our households this week?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to step out in faith this Advent — to trust Him for something not yet seen?

PRAYER

- Thank God for all the good things the year has held for your households.
- Pray for those who find home difficult for some reason.
- Ask God to be at work in your home and family/household as you trust Him to call you forward as we watch and wait in Advent.



MAKE & DO

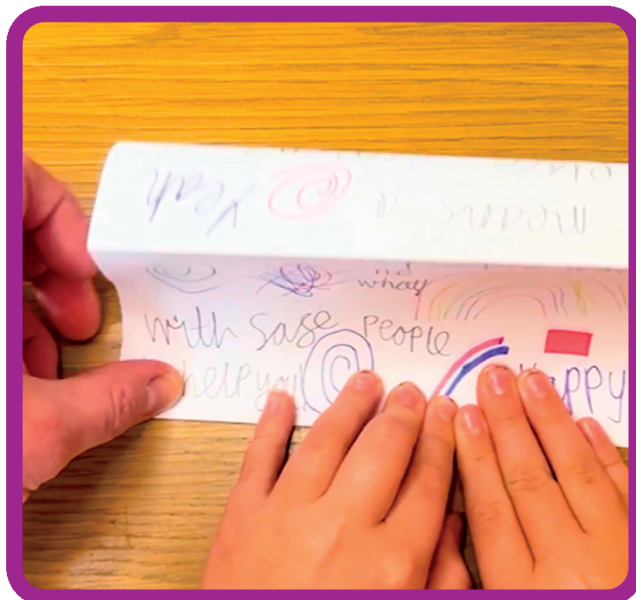
Paper Tents

Materials: Paper, pens, scissors, glue.

Make: Make a small paper 'tent' (folded triangle shape). On the sides, write or draw what 'home' means to you and where you see God's promises in your family or church community.

Do: Think about Abraham pitching his tents on the journey, and remember that we are travellers too: waiting for the home God is preparing.

Where can you see signs of God at work this week?



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Share your reflections at

[mentimeter.com/ale4jqh6t3du](https://www.mentimeter.com/ale4jqh6t3du)
#signsofthekingdom

VIDEO OF SESSION

Watch a video of today's session with voices from around our diocese



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COLLECT FOR ADVENT 1

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet
you in our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

OPTIONAL

Light the first
advent candle
as you pray



CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God,
Who called Abraham to go,
Teach us to trust You when you
call us forward.
Help us to find our home not in
comfort or certainty,
but in your promises and
presence.
Amen.

2. Watching & Waiting with Isaiah

BIBLE PASSAGE

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice...
...is it not to share your bread with the hungry...?"

Read God's word to the prophet Isaiah in [Isaiah 58:6-12](#)

REFLECTION

The prophet reminds Israel that true worship isn't confined to ritual or song, but is expressed through justice, mercy and compassion. God's Kingdom comes where His people live out His heart for the poor, the oppressed, and the broken.

Advent invites us to prepare for Christ not only by waiting, but by acting in hope, living as signs of His justice.



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QUESTIONS

- What did you notice about the bible story?
- What is great about where you live, work or go to school?
- Where do you notice God's heart for the poor and those in need being lived out in your parish community, school, or chaplaincy?

PRAYER

- Ask God to open your eyes to see where He is at work.
- Ask God to shape our worship so it overflows with compassion, generosity and justice.
- Ask God to fill us with His hope this Advent as we watch and wait.



MAKE & DO

Paper Chains

Materials: Paper/card, scissors, pens, glue/tape/staples.

Make: On strips of paper, write down things which are not fair (e.g. some have no food, no home). Stick the strips together in a long chain, discussing what you have written and why.

Do: Take your chain and break it! Ask God to break all unfair things and make them fair, bringing His justice and hope.

Where can you see signs of God at work this week?



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Share your reflections at
www.menti.com/alb2j428jw1g
#signsofthekingdom

VIDEO OF SESSION

Watch a video of today's session with voices from around our diocese



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COLLECT FOR ADVENT 2

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son,
Jesus Christ, comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive Him
who is our Lord and our God.

OPTIONAL

Light the
second advent
candle as you
pray



CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God,
As we prepare for Christ's
coming into the world,
Help us to live in hope,
and to act with justice, mercy
and compassion;
as we wait for your light to
break forth like the dawn.
Amen.

3. Watching & Waiting with Elizabeth

BIBLE PASSAGE

“With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him...
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Read the story of the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist in [Luke 1:5-17](#)

REFLECTION

Before John ever preached a word or baptised anyone, his very existence was a promise, a sign that God was at work fulfilling His word. Zechariah and Elizabeth had long given up hope of having a child, but God’s timing broke into their waiting. John’s birth became a living message of preparation and hope.

In Advent, we share that same sense of wonder, that God keeps His promises, often in surprising ways and through ordinary people. Our waiting is not wasted; it’s where faith is formed, and where God’s purposes quietly take shape.



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QUESTIONS

- What do you most value about living in our diocese in Coventry & Warwickshire?
- What kind of preparation is helping your community get ready to receive the coming of the Prince of Peace?
- Where do you notice hope, joy and life being offered to others?

PRAYER

- Ask God to form us into a people prepared for the arrival of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for joy in our wider community this Christmas.



MAKE & DO

Hope Lanterns

Materials: Glass jar or paper/plastic cup, tissue paper, glue, LED tea lights.

Make: Make and decorate a simple cup or jar lantern.

Do: Discuss what each person is 'hoping' for this Christmas. A nice treat, toy or gadget? What about deeper things, like love, peace, laughter or rest? What are you 'hoping' for in the place you live?

Write these things onto your lantern and place it somewhere visible as a sign that God's light is coming, even in the waiting.

As Elizabeth and Zechariah waited for God to act, we remember that His promises are fulfilled in His time.



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Share your reflections at

[#signsofthekingdom](https://www.menti.com/alg6syyw5wvr)

VIDEO OF SESSION

Watch a video of today's session with voices from around our diocese



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COLLECT FOR ADVENT 3

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice, and to suffer
for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

OPTIONAL

Light the third
advent candle
as you pray



CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God,
We pray that as we wait in hope
for the promise of your coming
and your return;
We will be formed into a people
of right relationships,
as we share in the joy and
gladness of the signs of your
coming kingdom.
Amen.

4. Watching & Waiting with Mary

BIBLE PASSAGE

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Read the story of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary in [Luke 1:26-38](#)

REFLECTION

Mary’s response to the angel’s message is one of faith and surrender. She becomes a bearer of Christ, and her “yes” is an example for us as disciples today.

Advent invites us to ponder how we, too, can say “yes” to God’s call in our lives. Today we consider how we might be bearers of hope, peace and love, as we share the good news of Jesus’ salvation with others.



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QUESTIONS

- How do we respond to God’s call on our lives today?
- Mary carried Jesus as God’s son: what might it mean for us to “carry” Jesus to others in the places we live, work and serve today?
- How can you bring life to others this Christmas season?

PRAYER

- Pray for peace in countries suffering from war and violence.
- Pray for people who find Christmas a difficult time, especially those missing someone this year.
- Pray that we would to live as caring bringers of life wherever we go.



MAKE & DO

Carrying Jesus

Materials: Wooden pegs and pens (or plastic pegs and permanent markers). Optional: Christmas carols or music.

Make: Write the name “Jesus” on your peg, with your chosen music playing in the background.

Do: Ask God what He might be asking you to do, or how He would like you to be. If you want to say yes to this, say it in your heart to God or whisper it aloud into your hands. Clip your peg somewhere like your clothing, bag, belt or keys. Talk about what it might be like to “carry” your Jesus-peg around with you into the world this week. Would it be easy? Would other people notice?



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Share your reflections at
www.menti.com/alsrrz99vz5u
#signsofthekingdom

VIDEO OF SESSION

Watch a video of today's session with voices from around our diocese



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COLLECT FOR ADVENT 4

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your
Son, so we wait for His coming in
glory; bring us through the birth
pangs of this present age to see,
with her, our great salvation in
Jesus Christ our Lord.

OPTIONAL

Light the
fourth advent
candle as you
pray



CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God,
You chose Mary to be the
bringer of the life of Jesus
Christ into our world.
Help us to be ready to welcome
Him as the King of Kings and
Saviour of the World;
being bearers of life this
Christmas.
Amen.



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