

Fourth Week of Advent – Year B

Opening Song: *See table of suggested music.*

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray.
Lord God, as Advent draws to a close, we ask for the faith that opens our lives to the Spirit of God. Fill our hearts with your love and bless us with peace and joy. We ask this in your most holy name.

All: Amen.

Light 3 purple and 1 pink candles.

Leader: Let us listen carefully to God's Word.

Reader: A reading from the second book of Samuel.

The Lord said to David,
"I have chosen a place for my people Israel
And have settled them there,
where they will live without being oppressed any more.
Ever since they entered this land,
They have been attacked by violent people,
But this will not happen again.
I promise to keep you safe from all your enemies
and to give you descendants.
When you die and are buried with your ancestors,
I will make one of your sons king
And will keep his kingdom strong.
He will be the one to build a temple for me,
And I will make sure that his dynasty continues forever.
I will be his father and he will be my son.
You will always have descendants,
And I will make your kingdom last for ever. Your dynasty will never end."

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm: Psalm 89
Try CBW III # 27, 148, or 448

Gospel Acclamation: Choose one that is familiar to your school community.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader:

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth.
He had a message for a girl promised in marriage to a man named Joseph,
Who was a descendant of King David.
The girl's name was Mary.
The angel came to her and said,
"Peace be with you! The Lord is with you
And has greatly blessed you!"
Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message,
And she wondered what his words meant.
Then angel said to her,
"Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you.
You will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And you will name him Jesus.
He will be great
And will be called the Son of the Most High God.
The Lord God will make him a king
As his ancestor David was,
And he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob for ever;
His kingdom will have no end."
Mary said to the angel,
"I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
And God's power will rest upon you.
For this reason, the holy child will be called the Son of God."
Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant;
May it happen to me as you have said."
And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reflection:

The leader or another adult may now offer a few brief thoughts on the readings and how they connect to the everyday lives of the school community. A few key points you may wish to mention are these:

- *God's word surprised both David and Mary, announcing a much greater future for them than what they had envisioned for themselves and for the whole world.*
- *We are always challenged when we hear about a new possibility for our lives; first, figuring out what it means and is it what God wants for us? Secondly, can we say a wholehearted "Yes" as Mary did?*

Leader:

Knowing God's generous love for all of his people, we confidently place our needs before him.

The response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, called to live with courage and complete trust in God, we pray to the Lord.

For our global community, challenged to share food, shelter and resources fairly and justly, we pray to the Lord.

For all those who will be away from their families this Christmas, we pray to the Lord.

For our school community here at _____ School, that we may enjoy a restful and joyful holiday and travel in safety, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, you know all of our needs before we know them ourselves. Hear and answer our prayer according to what is best for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

Leader: Now let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.
Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace and friendship.

Allow a moment for everyone to shake hands.

Leader: Let us pray.
God, our loving Father, lift our hearts and minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces God's glory. Bless us and our families as we celebrate the joyful season of Christmas together. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may we be blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing Song: See table of suggested songs.

CBW III	Spirit and Song
Prepare the Way # 317 Every Valley # 308 Listen, My People # 309 Let Heaven Rejoice # 557 O come, O Come Emmanuel # 312 Be Light for Our Eyes # 305 God of All People # 314	In the Day of the Lord #121 Christ, Be Our Light # 105 City of God # 106 Find Us Ready # 109