

Children's Resources

Advent Week 1 Year B

Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

Thematic Integrated Resource Kit This Resource Kit includes the following:

- Classroom Prayer & Rituals** - simple prayer suggestions and rituals around the theme for use in the classroom setting, to help integrate the theme in the children's life experience.
- School Assembly Resources** - prayers, rituals and music to integrate the liturgical theme into school assemblies.
- Staff Prayer & Ritual** - brief prayer rituals around the theme for staff prayer.
- Liturgy Resources** - for all aspects of the liturgy, including prayers, rituals, homily notes, music and art.
- A Word To Take Home-** inspirational messages for the school newsletter to help integrate the theme at home.
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Classroom Prayer & Ritual Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 1 Year B

Duration: 20 mins

Preparation :

Set up a sacred prayer space in the room using Advent-coloured fabric. Place an Advent Wreath in the sacred space. (See the article, *The Advent Wreath- Symbol Of Christ* by Eileen Ponder, available in the "A Note Or Two" section of the Music, Art & Environment Page on this site.) Open the Word of God at the reading for the day (see below) and place it in a central position in the sacred space. Have a basket of cut out candles (one per child), which can later be pinned to a display board near the sacred space, titled "**Our Advent Prayer Intention**". Keep this sacred space set throughout the Advent season.

Prayer Ritual:

Begin this time by inviting the children to focus on the sacred space and share what they see there: the colours, the Word of God, the Advent Wreath. Talk with them about the symbolic

meaning of what they see, particularly in the Advent Wreath, (see the article referred to above) by highlighting the elements of the Wreath; the circle of evergreen, the number of candles and their colours, etc.

Having done so, settle the children and pray a prayer of blessing of the Advent Wreath, such as the following. The Prayer Leader places her/his hand gently on the Wreath as s/he prays;

**Loving God,
Bless this Advent Wreath,
Which reminds us of your endless love for us.
Each time we light this wreath,
Help us to open our hearts
More deeply to your love,
As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus.
All: Amen.**

Following this, a child (depending on the age of the group) comes forward and lights the first of the Advent candles. As this is being done the following is said;

Leader: As we light our Advent candle we pray that Jesus, Emmanuel God, will warm our hearts with love as we prepare to celebrate his birth. Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

(For a more detailed ritual for the blessing and lighting of the Advent Wreath, please see the Liturgy Resources near the end of this document)

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 64: 1; 3-4

“O that you would tear the heavens open and come down to us...”

At this point a child comes forward and proclaims the text from Isaiah. Having done so the Prayer Leader directs the children to reflect silently on the reading. After a moment or two s/he invites them to share their understanding of the text. The Prayer Leader then explains that this is the Advent cry for God to come and be with us and work miracles in our lives. S/he talks with them about how the birth of Jesus is the greatest of all miracles because in the birth of Jesus God became one with us; the love, comfort and compassion of God was made real for us in Jesus.

The Prayer Leader invites the children to think about the situations and experiences in our world where the Advent cry would be heard most deeply; situations where the love and comfort of God is most needed. S/he gives some examples, such as war torn countries (name specific ones), children who are neglected and abused, families who are sad, people who suffer from sickness and addictions, etc. The Prayer Leader then invites the children to reflect quietly on one area or situation in the world where God's love and comfort are needed, for which they wish to pray throughout the weeks of Advent. Allow a moment or two for them identify their prayer intention.

When they have done so, pass out to each child the cut-out candle and have them write about (or draw if they are too young to write) their Advent prayer intention. Play some quiet music as they do so. When all have finished have them come forward one at a time and place their Advent prayer intention in a basket in the sacred space and then return to their places. Accompany this with the Advent hymn, ***Come Lord Jesus*** (Carey Landry – Hi God 2).

Advent Litany:

Following this, the group are directed to stand before the Advent Wreath as they pray the following litany.

Prayer Leader: Come O Jesus, come with love and comfort to...

(Individual children name the intention of their prayer e.g. families who are sad and hurting)

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel.

Prayer Leader: Come with love and comfort to...

(Individual children name the intention of their prayer e.g. people who are poor and hungry)

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel.

Repeat this prayer pattern until those who wish to have contributed. The Prayer Leader then says;

Let us pause now, bow our heads and pray in the quiet of our hearts for Jesus to come and bring love and comfort to those we personally know and care for, and to our own hearts, whatever our need may be.

After an appropriate pause the Prayer Leader then says;

Come O Jesus, come with love and comfort to us and to those we love.

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel.

Conclusion:

Conclude this prayer time by inviting the children to sing together the Advent hymn, ***Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel*** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near). Accompany this with simple prayerful gestures that give expression to the meaning of the hymn.

For more classroom prayers, meditations and rituals, please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.

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School Assembly **Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel**

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 1 Year B

Duration: 10mins

Preparation:

Set up in the assembly area a sacred prayer space, using Advent-coloured fabric. Place an Advent Wreath in the sacred space. (See the article, *The Advent Wreath- Symbol Of Christ* by Eileen Ponder, available in the “A Note Or Two” section of the Music, Art & Environment Page on this site.) Open the Word of God at the reading for the day (see below) and place it in a central position in the sacred space. You will also need a backdrop of a large collage of the world, depicting suffering and pain of all kind, with a banner saying, “Come O Jesus To Our Suffering World”. In front of this you will need a sand tray to place candles, which will be lit from the Advent Candle. Keep this sacred space set throughout the Advent season.

Prayer Ritual:

The Prayer Leader welcomes the community and focuses them by standing near the sacred space and says;

In our assembly prayer today we celebrate the first week of Advent, that special time in which we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Touching the Advent Wreath the Prayer Leader continues on by explaining the symbolic meaning of the Advent Wreath, (see the article referred to above) by highlighting the elements of the Wreath; the circle of evergreen, the number of candles and their colours, etc.

Having done so, s/he prays a simple blessing of the Advent Wreath, such as the following.

**Loving God,
Bless this Advent Wreath,
Which reminds us of your endless love for us.
Each time we light this wreath,**

**Help us to open our hearts
More deeply to your love,
As we prepare for the birth of your Son Jesus.
All: Amen.**

Leader: As we light our Advent candle we pray that Jesus, Emmanuel God will warm our hearts with love as we prepare to celebrate his birth.

Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

(For a more detailed ritual for the blessing and lighting of the Advent Wreath, please see the Liturgy Resources near the end of this document)

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 64: 1; 3-4

“O that you would tear the heavens open and come down to us...”

At this point a child comes forward and proclaims the text from Isaiah. Having done so the Prayer Leader directs the children to reflect silently on the reading. After a moment or two s/he explains that this is the Advent cry for God to come and be with us and work miracles in our lives. S/he talks with them about how the birth of Jesus is the greatest of all miracles because in the birth of Jesus God became one with us; the love, comfort and compassion of God was made real for us in Jesus.

The Prayer Leader invites the children to think about the situations and experiences in our world where the Advent cry would be heard most deeply; situations where the love and comfort of God is most needed. S/he gives some examples, such as war torn countries (name specific ones), children who are neglected and abused, families who are sad, people who suffer from sickness and addictions, etc. The Prayer Leader then invites the children to reflect quietly on one area or situation in the world where God's love and comfort are needed, for which they wish to pray. Allow a moment or two for them to do so.

Advent Litany:

Several students come forward and proclaim the following litany. As each petition is prayed the reader lights a candle from the Advent candle and places it before the collage of the suffering world.

**Reader: To our suffering world and all who cry out to you O God,
Come Emmanuel come.**

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

**Reader: To those who live in darkness and fear.
Come Emmanuel come.**

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

**Reader: To those who live in violence and war.
Come Emmanuel come.**

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

**Reader: To those who live in poverty and hunger.
Come Emmanuel come.**

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

**Reader: To those who are sick and in pain.
Come Emmanuel come.**

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To those whose hearts are sad and lonely.
Come Emmanuel come.

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To our community gathered here, as we begin our Advent journey,
The reader lights the candle from the Advent Candle and then steps forward towards the community and displays the candle to the community as s/he say,
Come Emmanuel draw us close to you.

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Conclusion:

Following this, the Prayer Leader invites the community to sing together the Advent hymn, ***Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel*** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near). Accompany this with simple prayerful gestures that give expression to the meaning of the hymn.

For more school assembly resources please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.

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Staff Prayer & Ritual **Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel**

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 1 Year B

Duration: 10-15 mins

Preparation:

Set up a prayer space in the gathering room using Advent-coloured fabric. Place an Advent Wreath in the sacred space. Open the Word of God at the reading for the day (see below) and place it in a central position in the sacred space.

Prayer Ritual:

The Prayer Leader welcomes the community. S/he prepares them for the prayer by highlighting the Advent Wreath. (See the article, *The Advent Wreath- Symbol Of Christ* by Eileen Ponder, available in the “A Note Or Two” section of the Music, Art & Environment Page on this site.) Having done s/he prays a blessing over the Wreath as follows.

Gracious God,
As we begin our Advent journey,
Send down your blessing on this Wreath.
May it be a sign of hope for us,
As we long for the fullness of your coming
In Emmanuel, Jesus your Son.

All: Amen.

A member of the community comes forward to light the first of the Advent Candles. As s/he does so s/he says the following:

Candle Lighter: May the fire of this flame bring hope to our hearts.

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel.

Candle Lighter: May it warm and comfort us as we wait for the coming of our God.

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel.

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 64: 1; 3-4

“O that you would tear the heavens open and come down to us...”

A member of the community proclaims the text from Isaiah. The Prayer Leader then invites the community to reflect silently on the reading. Having done so, s/he says;

This reading from Isaiah expresses the Advent cry that is in the hearts of so many who suffer in our world, those we know and those unknown to us. It is also the cry that stirs deep in our own hearts; the cry for God to come and bring comfort and healing to our lives. By way of acknowledging this Advent cry let us listen to the Advent hymn, *Tear The Heavens Asunder* and view its accompanying movie, which symbolically reveals something of our longing for God to come and be with us.

(The hymn and movie of *Tear The Heavens Asunder* (Monica Brown- Comfort My People) is available on www.liturgyplanningimages.com .) Alternatively, sing the hymn together.

When the hymn and movie have ended the community are invited to pray the following Advent Litany together, by naming their Advent prayer intention.

Prayer Leader: Come O Jesus, come with love and comfort to...

(Individuals name the intention of their prayer e.g. those who have lost heart and are fearful...)

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel

Prayer Leader: Come with love and comfort to...

(Individuals name the intention of their prayer e.g. those who are addicted and broken...)

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel

Repeat this prayer pattern until those who wish to have contributed. The Prayer Leader then says;

Let us pause now, bow our heads and pray in the quiet of our hearts for Jesus to come and bring love and comfort to our own hearts, whatever our need may be.

After an appropriate pause the Prayer Leader then says;

Come O Jesus, come with love and comfort to us and to those we love.

All: Come O Jesus, come Emmanuel.

Conclusion:

The Prayer Leader then invites the community to conclude by saying together the final prayer.

**God of comfort, God of love,
Hear our prayer as we wait for you
To come and be God in our lives.
May all whose hearts know the Advent cry,
Find the fullness of your promise of love,
In Jesus, Emmanuel God with us.
All: Amen.**

For more staff prayers and rituals please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.

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Liturgy Resources

Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 1 Year B

Nature Of Liturgy: A Liturgy of The Word. Elements of this liturgy may be adapted for a Eucharistic Liturgy.

Website Links:

<http://www.catholic.org/clife/advent/>

<http://www.silk.net/RelEd/searchresults.html?cx=partner-pub-0071582534774467%3A5uv0hh-qffo&cof=FORID%3A10&q=Advent&sa=Search#1151>

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Seasons/Advent.shtml>

www.liturgyplanningimages.com

Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16- 17; 64: 1, 3-8

O that you would tear the heavens open and come down to us...

Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

Keep awake for you do not know when the Master of the house will come...

Prayers:

Opening Prayer

Presider:

Let us pray.... Pause for silent prayer

Good and loving God,

As we begin our Advent journey,

Awaken our hearts to hear your Word,

So that we may prepare for the coming,

Of Jesus our Emmanuel.

We make this prayer in Jesus' holy name.

All: Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Presider: With faith in the promise of our God, let us pray that Jesus Emmanuel God will come with the fullness of God's love.

Reader: To our suffering world and all who cry out to you O God,
Come Emmanuel come.

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To those who live in darkness and fear.
Come Emmanuel come.

All: Come, O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To those in live in violence and war.
Come Emmanuel come.

All: Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To those who live in poverty and hunger.
Come Emmanuel come.

All: Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To those who are sick and in pain.
Come Emmanuel come.

All: Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To those whose hearts are sad and lonely.
Come Emmanuel come.

All: Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Reader: To our community gathered here, as we begin our Advent journey,
Come Emmanuel draw us close to you.

All: Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel.

Presider: Receive O loving God, these prayers which we offer you as we faithfully wait
for the coming of Jesus your Son.
Amen.

Concluding Prayer:

Presider

Faithful God,
May your holy Word,
Which we have received here,
Help us to prepare our hearts,
To celebrate the birth of Jesus your Son,
Through special acts of love and kindness,
To all whom we meet.
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Breaking Open The Word/Homily:

The following points may be helpful in breaking open the Word of God.

- Invite the community to pause and recall the Word or phrase from the readings that spoke to them. After a minute or two of silent reflection, invite them to name that word or phrase. *(This is not a discussion, simply the sharing of a word or phrase from the texts without explanation or detail).*
- Highlight the Advent cry from Isaiah and reflect with the community on how this cry is in the hearts of so many in our world, in our community and in our families; a cry for God to come and be with us and work miracles in our lives. Reflect with them on how the birth of Jesus is the greatest of all miracles because in the birth of Jesus God became one with us; the love, comfort and compassion of God was made real for us in Jesus.
- Talk with the community about situations and experiences where the Advent cry would be heard most deeply; situations where the love and comfort of God is most needed. Give some examples, such as war torn countries (name specific ones), children who are neglected and abused, families who are sad, people who suffer from sickness and addictions, etc.
- Reflect with them on Jesus' imagery in the Gospel of being ready and alert as we wait for God to come and be with us through the birth of Jesus. Talk about ways in which they can be ready and alert for this miracle by trying to be more loving in their relationships, particularly to those in need.

- Conclude by inviting the community to consider making a promise of a special prayer intention throughout Advent, for a specific area, situation or concern in the world or in their own personal lives where God's love and comfort are needed. Allow a moment or two of quiet reflection for them to consider this. Having done so invite them to sing and pray together, ***Come O Jesus*** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near). Have some children lead the community in simply prayer gestures in the chorus of this hymn. In the verses have some children present mime freeze images that reflect the meaning of the hymn.

Highlighting Rituals:

- **Welcome & Lighting Of Advent Wreath:**

The Presider/Prayer Leader welcomes the group and introduces the focus of the liturgy as follows.

In our celebration today we mark the beginning of our Advent journey. As we listen to God's Word we hear in the first reading the Advent cry for God to come and be with us, to comfort us and work wonders in our lives. The Gospel calls us to be ready and alert to the coming of our God by preparing our hearts in loving deeds and actions.

The Presider moves towards the Advent Wreath.

This Advent Wreath is a sign for us of our waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus. By its evergreen circle, (*Presider runs her/his hand over the circle of greenery*) the Advent Wreath reminds us of God's endless love and gift of life to us. These three violet candles and purple ribbon (*Presider points to them*) remind us of our waiting, and longing for Jesus' coming at Christmas. The rose candle (*Presider touches the rose candle*), reminds us of the joy and hope that will replace our longing, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The white candle (*Presider touches the white candle*), is the sign of Jesus' birth and the new life that comes to us through his death and resurrection.

The Presider now blesses the Wreath as follows:

Presider:

Living God, this wreath reminds us of your endless love for us. It is a sign of our waiting and longing for the celebration of the birth of your Son Jesus. Bless this wreath (*Presider makes the sign of cross over the wreath*) that it may be a holy sign that guides us during these days of Advent, into the mystery of your love for us.

All: Amen.

The Presider then generously sprinkles the Advent Wreath with Holy Water.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle:

Have a senior student and a younger child come forward together to light the first violet candle (*each using a taper and standing either side of the wreath*), as the Presider says the following:

May this violet light remind us that our hearts are waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus, the light of our world.

All: We prepare our hearts as we wait for Jesus' coming.

The liturgy continues on as usual.

- **Reflective Hymn & Mime:**

See above at the conclusion of the homily

- **PowerPoint Reflections:**

You may wish to view one of the following PowerPoint Presentations which are available on www.liturgyplanningimages.com

Fill Every Valley – Children's Hymn (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)

Our God Is Near - Children's Hymn (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)

Come Gather Children - Children's Hymn (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)

Come O Jesus – Children's Hymn (Monica Brown)

- **Blessing & Dismissal:**

The Presider extends her/his arms over the community for the following blessing.

Presider: May this Advent Journey bring you the blessing of God's love and comfort.

All: Amen.

Presider: May it bring you the blessing of God's peace and joy.

All: Amen.

Presider: May it bring you the blessing of God's light to guide you on journey.

Amen.

All: Amen.

Presider: Let us go now to love and serve our God as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus our Emmanuel.

Amen.

All: Amen.

Music Relevant To The Theme:

- **Advent Canon** (Carey Landry – Hi God 5)
- **A Voice In The Wilderness** (C. Robinson – A Voice In The Wilderness)
- **Come Gather Children** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Come Lord Jesus** (Carey Landry – Hi God 2)
- **Come O Jesus** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Emmanuel God With Us** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Fill Every Valley** (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)
- **Emmanuel** (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)
- **Our God Is Near** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Wait In Hope** (Nathaniel Ford - As One Voice For Kids)
- **Watch Out** (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)

Sacred Space, Art and Environment:

Purple coloured fabric, Advent Wreath and the Word of God.

Visit www.liturgyplanningimages.com for graphics & photographs.

For more liturgies for Advent please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.

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A Word To Take Home **Advent Week 1 Year B** **Come O Jesus, Come Emmanuel**

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 64: 1-8

"O that you would tear the heavens open and come down to us..."

This reading from Isaiah expresses something of the urgency of the Advent cry that is in the

hearts of so many who suffer in our world, those we know and those unknown to us. It is also the cry that stirs deep in our own hearts as we face the daily struggles that are part and parcel of every human life.

Whilst some of us are not as explicit or as articulate as Isaiah in expressing our cry for God, others are worn out and worn down by the constancy of the cry. And there are those who are not even aware of the cry that lies muffled in their hearts. They only know that they want their life to be different and God is the last one, it seems, that they would look to in their search for meaning and fulfilment.

To be human is to long for more of whatever can transcend our frailty and limitations, our heartache and our hardships. To be human is to yearn for God, however we know or struggle to know the Sacred in our lives. Knowing ourselves for who we are; facing our own humanity and mortality, will in itself, cause us to cry out to God one way or another.

But, what is it that we want God to do? Nothing less than to be God in our lives. To work miracles, to make a difference, to do what only God can do in the face of our human reality. We want God to do what God promises to do in the Advent readings of Isaiah: wipe our tears, heal our wounds, bind up our broken hearts, lift the shadows from our lives, give us new sight and turn our weapons into ploughshares. We want God to come and *be with us*, to comfort us, heal us and renew our spirits.

The truth is God has heard our cry and God has honoured and fulfilled that promise abundantly in Jesus, Emmanuel, whose name means God-with-us. Jesus, as an authentic human being is God with us. This is the extraordinary mystery that we celebrate at Christmas.

Our celebration and appreciation of this mystery of God's incarnation in our humanity will take on new depths and new meaning if we take time during this Advent season to listen to our innate cry for God. If we clear a space for even a moment or two of quiet and stillness and wait in that longing, we will give ourselves the opportunity to experience God right where we are, and sense something of what only God can do in our hearts.

As a family, talk about this Advent season and practical things you can do to clear a space each week, if only for a few minutes, to light an Advent candle and simply be in the quiet and stillness and leave the rest to God!

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For family rituals please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.

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