

Children's Liturgy Resource

Advent Week 3 Year B

Proclaim The Good News



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 **Proclaim The Good News**

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 3 Year B

Duration: 20 mins

Preparation:

Set up a sacred prayer space in the room using Advent-coloured fabric, as per Advent Week 1 Year B - TIRK.

Prayer Ritual:

When all the children are settled, the Prayer Leader recalls with them last week's ritual. S/he directs them to focus on the first, second and third candles in the Advent Wreath. S/he explains the symbolism of the third rose-coloured candle, reminding us that as we come nearer to the end of our Advent journey, our waiting will soon be over and we will come into the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The Prayer Leader then directs the children to focus on their Advent Prayer Intention Display board (see Advent Week 1 Year B – TIRK), and invites them to be aware of their prayer

intention as the three Advent candles are lit. During the lighting of the Advent Wreath sing together the first and second round of the **Advent Canon** (Carey Landry – Hi God 5).

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 61: 1-2; 10-11

“Proclaim the good news...”

Following this, two children come forward and proclaim the text from Isaiah. Allocate verse 1-2 to one of the children and verse 10-11 to the other child. Use a children’s edition of the text and have them learn their respective verses by heart (or a phrase of the text). Have them stand before the group proclaiming the text with presence and an appreciation of its meaning. (*This will require preparation with the two readers well before the prayer ritual.*) When the children come forward to proclaim the reading, have them go to the sacred space and gently touch the Word of God and then turn and stand before the group. As the first child proclaims her/his verse have the second child stand beside her/him and step back a little until it is her/his turn to proclaim her/his verse. When the proclamation has ended the two children turn slightly to the sacred space and point to the Word of God as they say together,
“This is the Word of God”.

The group then respond with, **“Thanks be to God”.**

The two children then reverence the Word by gently bowing before it. They then return to their places.

After a moment’s pause, the Prayer Leader invites the group to name the word or phrase each heard from the reading and to share how it makes them feel. In this manner reflect on the reading with the group. Highlight the hope and joy that is felt because of the coming of Jesus. Talk with the children about the “Good News” of Jesus’ coming and the abundant blessings of healing and freedom, justice and peace, love and joy that he brings to our world.

Reflect with them on their Advent Prayer Intention and the “good news” that they would like to proclaim in reference to their specific prayer intention. Talk with them about the blessings they hope that Jesus’ life can bring to the suffering and needy in our world and to their own lives. Give some examples and take some from them.

Following this, reflect with the group on how we too, like Jesus, have the Spirit of God in our hearts and we are also called and sent by God, as Jesus was, to proclaim the good news of God’s blessings by the way we live and relate to each other.

At this point, direct the children to reflect silently on one blessing of God they want to bring to a specific person, group or situation during these days of Advent. Play some quiet, instrumental music here as they reflect. After an appropriate time, fade the music out and invite the children to place their hands upon their hearts and prayerfully proclaim verse 1-2 of the text from Isaiah, by repeating it line by line after the Prayer Leader.

Having done so, invite them to proclaim the Good News litany that follows.

Litany Of Good News

Prayer Leader: With faith in Jesus, let us proclaim the good news of his blessings that we are called to bring to those who are in need.

Reader: To those who suffer in war and violence, proclaim the good news of peace and justice.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Prayer Leader: To those who are sad and lonely, proclaim the good news of loving care and concern.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Prayer Leader: To families who are broken and hurting, proclaim the good news of forgiveness and healing.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Prayer Leader: To those who are worried and anxious, proclaim the good news of quiet trust and calm.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Prayer Leader: To those who poor and needy, proclaim the good news of help and strength.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Prayer Leader: To those who are grieving and missing their loved ones, proclaim the good news of comfort and faith.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Conclusion:

Conclude this prayer ritual by singing together, *God Can Speak Through Each Of Us* (Carey Landry – Hi God 5).

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 **Proclaim The Good News**

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 3 Year B

Duration: 10mins

Preparation:

Set up a sacred prayer space in the room using Advent-coloured fabric, as per Advent Week 1 Year B - TIRK.

Prayer Ritual:

When the community is settled, the Prayer Leader welcomes all and recalls last week's prayer ritual with them. S/he directs them to focus on the first, second and third candles in the Advent Wreath. S/he explains the symbolism of the third rose-coloured candle, reminding us that as we come nearer to the end of our Advent journey, our waiting will soon be over and we will come into the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus. As the candles are lit, the community sings together the first and second round of the **Advent Canon** (Carey Landry – Hi God 5).

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 61: 1-2; 10-11

"Proclaim the good news..."

Following the lighting of the Advent Wreath, a student comes forward and takes up the Word of God from the sacred space and proclaims the reading from Isaiah. *(Ensure that this student can proclaim the text with presence and an appreciation of the spirit and meaning of the text.)* When the proclamation has ended the student holds the Word of God high before the community and says, **"This is the Word of God"**. The community respond with, **"Thanks be to God"**.

The Prayer Leader then briefly reflects with the community on the reading, highlighting the hope and joy that is felt because of the coming of Jesus. S/he talks with them about the “Good News” of Jesus’ coming and the abundant blessings of healing and freedom, justice and peace, love and joy that he brings to our world. Reflect with the community on the “good news” blessings they hope that Jesus’ life can bring to the suffering and needy in our world and to their own lives.

Give some examples and take some from them.

Following this, reflect with the group on how we too, like Jesus, have the Spirit of God in our hearts and we are also called and sent by God, as Jesus was, to proclaim the good news of God’s blessings by the way we live and relate to each other.

At this point, direct the children to reflect silently on one blessing of God they want to bring to a specific person, group or situation during these days of Advent. Play some quiet, instrumental music here as they reflect. After an appropriate time, fade the music out and invite the community to proclaim the Good News litany that follows.

Litany Of Good News

Prayer Leader: With faith in Jesus, let us proclaim the good news of his blessings that we are called to bring to those who are in need.

Reader: To those who suffer in war and violence, proclaim the good news of peace and justice.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who are sad and lonely, proclaim the good news of loving care and concern.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To families who are broken and hurting, proclaim the good news of forgiveness and healing.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who are worried and anxious, proclaim the good news of quiet trust and calm.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who poor and needy, proclaim the good news of help and strength.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who are grieving and missing their loved ones, proclaim the good news of comfort and faith.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Conclusion:

Conclude this prayer ritual by singing together, *God Can Speak Through Each Of Us* (Carey Landry – Hi God 5).

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

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Staff Prayer & Ritual

Proclaim The Good News

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 3 Year B

Duration: 10 mins

Set up a sacred prayer space in the room using Advent-coloured fabric, as per Advent Week 1 Year B - TIRK.

Prayer Ritual:

When the group has been welcomed and is settled, the Prayer Leader recalls with all present last week's ritual. S/he directs them to focus on the first, second and third candles in the Advent Wreath. S/he explains the symbolism of the third rose-coloured candle, reminding them that as we come nearer to the end of our Advent journey, our waiting will soon be over and we will come into the joy of the fullness of God's love in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. As a member of the community lights the three Advent candles the following is said.

Leader: May this Advent light lead us to the fullness of Christ's coming.

All: Our hearts are expectant and full of hope.

Leader: May this light fire our hope as we wait in faith and trust.

All: Our hearts are expectant and full of hope.

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 61: 1-2; 10-11

"Proclaim the good news..."

The Prayer Leader invites them to prepare to hear God's Word by singing together the mantra, **Speak Lord** (Monica Brown – Holy Ground). As the mantra is sung, the Word of God, led by a candle bearer is carried in procession in and around the community. When the mantra has ended a member of the community comes forward to proclaim the reading from Isaiah. The Word of God is passed to the reader. The candle bearer stands beside her/him. (*Ensure that this reader can proclaim the text with presence and an appreciation of the spirit and meaning of the text.*) When the proclamation has ended the reader holds the Word of God high before the community and says, **"This is the Word of God"**.

The community respond with, **"Thanks be to God"**.

After a moment or two of quiet reflection, the Prayer Leader briefly reflects with the group on the reading, highlighting the hope and joy that is felt because of the coming of Jesus. S/he talks with them about the "Good News" of Jesus' coming and the abundant blessings of healing and freedom, justice and peace, love and joy that he brings to our world. The Prayer Leader then reflects with the group on how we too, like Jesus, have the Spirit of God in our hearts and we are also called and sent by God, as Jesus was, to proclaim the good news of God's blessings by the way we live and relate to each other.

At this point, the Prayer Leader invites the community to reflect silently on one blessing of God they want to bring to a specific person, group or situation during these days of Advent. Play some quiet instrumental music here as they reflect. After an appropriate time, fade the music out and invite them to place their hand upon their heart and prayerfully proclaim verse 1-2 of the text from Isaiah, by repeating it line by line after the Prayer Leader.

Having done so, the group are invited to proclaim the Good News litany that follows, by naming the good news blessing they wish to bring to specific situations, relationships or issues.

Litany Of Good News

Prayer Leader: With faith in Jesus, let us proclaim the good news of his blessings that we are called to bring to those who are in need...

Individual: To ... e.g. those who suffer in war and violence,
Proclaim the good news of ... e.g. peace and justice.
All: Proclaim the good news.

Individual: To e.g. those who are stressed and burdened,
Proclaim the good news of ... e.g. support and understanding.
All: Proclaim the good news.

Continue this prayer formula until all who wish have participated.
The Prayer Leader concluded it with the following.

Prayer Leader: May God who calls us to proclaim the Good news of God's blessing and love, strengthen us with the grace to honour what we are called to do in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Conclusion:
The Prayer Leader then invites them to stand and sing together, ***We Are Called*** (David Haas – As One Voice/2)

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

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A Liturgy Of The Word **Proclaim The Good News**

The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 3 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-offo&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 61: 1-2,10-11
Proclaim the good news...

Gospel: John 1: 6-8,19-28
There was a man sent from God...He was a witness to testify to the light...

Prayers:

Opening Prayer

Presider:

Let us pray.... Pause for silent prayer

God of glory,
We give you thanks for your great love,
Given to us as gift in Jesus your Son.
May this celebration help us
To follow him more closely
And proclaim the good news of your love
In our own lives.
This we prayer in Jesus' name.
All: Amen.

Litany/Prayer of the Faithful:

Prayer Leader: With faith in Jesus, let us proclaim the good news of his blessings that we are called to bring to those who are in need.

Reader: To those who suffer in war and violence, proclaim the good news of peace and justice.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who are sad and lonely, proclaim the good news of loving care and concern.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To families who are broken and hurting, proclaim the good news of forgiveness and healing.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who are worried and anxious, proclaim the good news of quiet trust and calm.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who are poor and needy, proclaim the good news of help and strength.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Reader: To those who are grieving and missing their loved ones, proclaim the good news of comfort and faith.

All: Proclaim the good news.

Presider: May God who calls us to proclaim the Good news of God's blessing and love, strengthen us with the grace to do all that we are called to do in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Presider:
God of blessings,
We have heard your call
To go out and proclaim the Good News of your love
Just as Jesus has done.
Bless us with the grace of your Spirit,
That we may bring the light of Jesus to all whom we meet.
This we pray in union with your Spirit.
All: Amen.

Breaking Open The Word Homily:

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

- After a brief period of reflection on the reading, invite the group to name the word or phrase they heard from the readings and to share how it makes them feel. Highlight the hope and joy that is felt, particularly in the reading from Isaiah, because of the coming of Jesus. Talk with the children about the “Good News” of Jesus’ coming and the abundant blessings of healing and freedom, justice and peace, love and joy that he brings to our world.
- Reflect with the group on how we too, like Jesus, have the Spirit of God in our hearts and we are also called and sent by God, as Jesus was, to proclaim the good news of God’s blessings by the way we live and relate to each other. Note how the Gospel reminds us that like John the Baptist, we can be witnesses in our own lives to the light of Jesus.
- Remind those present of their Advent Prayer Intentions (See Liturgy for Advent Week 1 Year B). Talk with them about the “good news” that they would like to proclaim in reference to their specific prayer intention; the blessings they hope that Jesus’ life can bring to the suffering and needy in our world. Give some examples and take some from them.
- At this point, direct the children to reflect silently on one blessing of God they want to bring to a specific person, group or situation during these days of Advent. Play some quiet instrumental music here as they reflect. After an appropriate time, fade the music out and invite the children to place their hand upon their heart and prayerfully proclaim verse 1-2 of the text from Isaiah, by repeating it line by line after the Presider. Following this direct them to stand and prayer the Prayer of the Faithful together.

Highlighting Rituals:

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

The Presider/Prayer Leader, welcomes the community. S/he then moves towards the Advent Wreath. Touching or pointing to the third Advent candle, s/he says,

This rose-coloured candle, which marks the third week of Advent, reminds us of the joy and blessings we can expect as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Today’s Word of God will speak to us of the Good News of God’s abundant blessings that Jesus brings to our world and to each of us. As we light this third candle, let our hearts rejoice and be glad at all that we can hope for from our God.

A child comes forward and lights the third Advent Candle.

- **Proclamation of the Gospel:**

Have two students proclaim the text from Isaiah. Allocate verse 1-2 to one of the children and verse 10-11 to the other child. Use a children’s edition of the text and have them learn their respective verses by heart (or a phrase of the text). Have them stand before the group proclaiming the text with presence and an appreciation of its meaning. (*This will require preparation with the two readers well before the prayer ritual.*) When the children come forward to proclaim the reading, have them go to the sacred space and gently touch the Word of God and then turn and stand before the group. As the first child proclaims her/his verse have the second child stand beside her/him and step back a little until it is her/his turn to proclaim her/his verse. When the proclamation has ended the two children turn slightly to the sacred space and point to the Word of God as they say together,

“This is the Word of God”.

The group then respond with, **“Thanks be to God”.**

The two children then reverence the Word by gently bowing before it. They then return to their places.

- **Reflection On The Word:**

See above at the end 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)

- **Final Blessing**

The Presider directs the community to place their right hand on the left shoulder of the person next to them for the following blessing.

Presider: May this Advent journey draw you close to God and bring you blessings.

May the blessing of Advent hope be yours.

All: May the blessing of Advent hope be yours.

Presider: May the blessing of Advent joy be yours.

All: May the blessing of Advent joy be yours.

Presider: And may the blessing of Jesus, Emmanuel God be with you.

All: May the blessing of Jesus, Emmanuel God be with you.

Presider: Let us go in peace and joy to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to our world.

All: Amen.

Music Relevant To The Theme:

- **Advent Canon** (Carey Landry – Hi God 5)
- **A Voice In The Wilderness** (Chris Robinson – A Voice In The Wilderness)
- **Candles Of Advent** (Carey Landry – Hi God 6)
- **Children Of The Light** (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)
- **Come O Jesus** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Come Gather Children** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Emmanuel, God With Us** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Fill Every Valley** (Michael Mangan- Sing Your Joy)
- **God Can Speak Through Each Of Us** (Carey Landry – Hi God 5)
- **God Of Our Journey** (Monica Brown – Praise & Blessings)
- **Jesus Is The Light** (Michael Mangan – Setting Hearts On Fire)
- **Living In The Light** (David MacGregor – As One Voice for Kids)
- **O Emmanuel** (Michael Mangan – As One Voice For Kids)
- **Our God Is Near** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Prepare The Way** (C. Walker – Calling The Children)
- **Water of Life** (John Burland)

Sacred Space, Art and Environment:

Advent coloured fabric, Advent Wreath, Word of God, Candle for Gospel Procession.

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 3 Year B Proclaim The Good News

Scripture Focus:

Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11

"Proclaim the good news..."

Those experienced in media, especially the press, have a theory that good news doesn't sell. People, it seems, prefer to read the bad news!

Some are not convinced about that theory. Perhaps it is more a matter of familiarity. We are so used to the bad news these days; there seems to be nothing else. It's as though we don't expect to hear good news anymore. Yet the readings for this third week of Advent remind us that there is good news and plenty of it.

The good news that is being proclaimed by Isaiah is quite remarkable - so remarkable that it is barely believable! It is the good news that the poor long to hear and the captives and oppressed are desperate to hear. It is the good news of freedom and liberation, of comfort and healing, of justice and abundant blessings. It is the good news of God's favour finding its fullness in our humanity in Jesus. That is certainly the kind of good news that only 'fools' would believe, the kind of 'fools' who believe in miracles and mysteries, in the impossible being made possible through faith in Jesus.

There are people in our world and people in our own lives, in our families, our communities and our work places, who genuinely long to hear some good news. There are some who are hanging by a thread desperate to hear good news that can give them hope, healing, comfort, peace, love.

We can proclaim this good news of God's favour to each other, but more convincingly, in many ways, by our presence than by our words. We can actually *be* the good news of God's favour for one another in the same way that Jesus was for all those who experienced him on this earth. Through our presence, our touch, our words, through our actions and our very lives, God's Spirit can do in us what God did in Jesus. We can truly be the blessing of God's hope and comfort, liberation and justice for one another.

During this Advent season take time to look around and identify those you know who could do with a bit of good news. They may be members of your own family, or relatives and friends who are waiting and hoping for some good news that can really lift their spirits. Find practical ways in which you can be, for them, the good news of God's favour.

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