

## Children's liturgy – Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

### Preparing for worship

**Colour:** purple

**Props:** Advent wreath

**Song suggestions:** Wait for the Lord (88, Laudate)

O come o come Emmanuel (112, Laudate)

**Welcome:** In today's readings we are told that someone very special is coming. Who do you think that might be? John the Baptist tries to help people get ready for this special person. Let's think some more about this today.

**Opening prayer:** Loving God, you want the whole world to welcome Jesus. Help us to prepare for his coming by changing our lives for the better. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Baruch 5:1-9

**Psalm:** Psalm 125:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6

**Gospel acclamation:** *Everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. So John went throughout the whole territory of the River Jordan, preaching, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins." As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"Someone is shouting in the desert:

'Get the road ready for the Lord;  
make a straight path for him to travel!

Every valley must be filled up,  
every hill and mountain levelled off.

The winding roads must be made straight,  
and the rough paths made smooth.

The whole human race will see God's salvation!"

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from the reading today?

God speaks to John while he is in the desert. What does John then go out and do?

John the Baptist goes round to the people and tells them to be prepared for the coming of Jesus. He offers to baptise them so that their sins will be forgiven.

How do you think the people felt when they heard this?

Advent is a time when we think about our actions and try to make sure that we are ready for the coming of Jesus. We think about what we could do better and try to make a change to our lives.

What do you think you could do differently, so that you can try to be ready for Jesus?

CAFOD works with the Church and local organisations all over the world to help people change their lives for the better.

Alberto lives in Peru. He often had to look after his younger brothers and sisters while his mum was out at work, or help them with their homework, even though he was still a child himself.

But he became involved with a local homework club, run by an organisation supported by CAFOD. This helped him and his siblings be safe while their mum was working and also meant that Alberto grew more confident.

He joined the reading club too and made new friends. He also joined another group where he learnt to be a good leader, how to solve problems and help his local community. All of this support helped Alberto to stay in school and he has now started studying to be an accountant.

Making a change can be really difficult. But Alberto says that nothing is impossible if you set yourself a goal.

How does it make you feel to know that there are organisations around the world who help children, young people and grown-ups to change their lives for the better?

How will you make a difference to your own lives and to the lives of others around the world this week as you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Advent?

**Intercessions** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We try to make a change to our lives and the lives of others as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, and so we pray together:

We pray for all the leaders in the world: that they may treat their people and those of other countries with fairness and compassion. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may have the chance to change their lives for the better and look to the future with hope and happiness. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our communities, families and friends: that we may care for each other as Jesus taught us, and so change all our lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

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**Closing prayer:** Merciful God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Help us to get ready as well. Lead us to make positive changes in our lives and the lives of others around the world. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Share the accompanying activity sheet with the children. Invite them to decorate the bauble by writing or drawing what change they will try to make this Advent, cut it out and hang it on their tree once it is up. You could encourage them to stick the paper template to card to make it stiffer.

Light two candles on your Advent Wreath if you have one. Use the prayer on the accompanying activity sheet to pray for your group's intentions at this time and encourage the children to take it home to pray during the week.

Encourage the children to discuss all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Remind them to do try to do at least one thing differently in the coming week to change their life, or the life of someone else for the better.

\*Gospel passage taken from:  
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