

# ADVENT



## Word of the Week

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

And in the same region there were shepherds out in a field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

## Prayer for the Week

Leader: Loving God, we wait in hope, with hearts full of joy.

All: We rejoice in God's love and promise.

Leader: As we prepare for the coming of Jesus,

All: We open our hearts to His peace and joy.

Leader: May we share His love with others,

All: And spread His joy through every word and action.

Leader: God, help us to be a light in the world.

All: May we bring joy to those around us, as we wait for You.



joy  
TO THE  
World

## Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday coming is Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for "REJOICE". This week in preparation for this rejoice Sunday we think about the joy that the birth of Christ brings to the world.

What brings you joy during this Advent season?

## Good News of Great Joy!

This week's Word of the Week tells of the joy the shepherds felt hearing the message of the Angels. They were the first to hear of the good news of Jesus' birth.

The shepherds were ordinary people about about their daily work when they received the extraordinary news of Christ's birth. Their initial shock and fear turned into overwhelming joy, which led them to hurry to Bethlehem to witness the miracle.

When have you experienced overwhelming joy?

We would feel the same joy today as the shepherds did, knowing that the saviour of the world has been born for us.

This week we pray that we are able to feel the joy of the shepherds, and a deeper joy than just the joy that the festive season brings.

## How can you share joy with others this advent?



Every form this week has been given a star outline. As part of your prayer time this week take time as a form to decorate your star and invite every one to write something on the star that brings them joy. This star will become your star of joy for the Advent season helping us to remember where we find joy in our lives. Display this star somewhere in your form room so that you will see it each day.

Let us pray...

Dear God, thank You for the joy of Advent and the bright star that showed us the way to Jesus. Help us to share Your love and light with others, just as the star brought hope to the world. Fill our hearts with peace and happiness as we prepare for Jesus' birth.

Amen.

Fear not, for I  
bring you good  
news of great joy  
that will be for  
all people. *Luke*  
2:10



## Prayer for Joy

The lead up to Christmas and Christmas itself isn't always a joyful time for everyone. Take a moment now as a form to think about those who might find this time of year difficult. Take a moment to name groups of people who we should pray for, asking God to bring joy into their lives this Christmas.



Something to watch and listen to...

The Afters - Joy Unto The World  
([LISTEN HERE](#))

Phil Wickham - Shepherd Boy  
([LISTEN HERE](#))

Good News (Part 1) | A spoken word nativity story  
([WATCH HERE](#))

Don't forget about our 2024 Advent Appeal!  
Please bring any donations to Kate's office.