



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C

Violet

‘Watch out and keep praying’

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

No-one is sure what Jesus meant when he spoke of the strange signs in the sky, but we know that Jesus will come again and we know that God loves us dearly. Just as we spend a lot of time getting ready for Christmas, so too we must spend some time to be ready for the time when Jesus comes again. Advent is a special time the church sets aside for us to prepare.



The Advent wreath is a good way of seeing the weeks passing – a circle of evergreen branches, with three purple and one pink candle. One candle is lit each week of Advent, with the pink candle lit on the third Sunday. We know that Jesus came to share love, forgiveness and peace with the world. If we share these gifts of his love each day by small acts of kindness then we will be ready to enjoy the celebrations of Christmas.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the First Sunday of Advent, starting with the Gospel. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Strange things will happen to the sun, moon and stars. The nations on earth will be afraid of the roaring sea and tides, and they won't know what to do. People will be so frightened that they will faint because of what is happening to the world. Every power in the sky will be shaken. “Then the Son of Man will be seen, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. When all of this starts happening, stand up straight and be brave. You will soon be set free.



“Don’t spend all of your time thinking about eating or drinking or worrying about life. If you do, the final day will suddenly catch you like a trap. That day will surprise everyone on earth.

“Watch out and keep praying that you can escape all that is going to happen and that the Son of Man will be pleased with you.”

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

I, the Lord, say this:

The time is coming when I will keep the promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

I will choose a ruler from the family of David,

And he will be completely fair to everyone.

Judah will be safe. Jerusalem will have peace, and it will be named,

“The Lord our Protector!”

PSALM

Psalm 25

Response: **To you O Lord, I lift my soul**

Show me your paths and teach me to follow;

guide me by your truth and instruct me.

You keep me safe, and I always trust you. **R**

You are honest and merciful,

and you teach sinners how to follow your path.

You lead humble people to do what is right and to stay on your path. **R**

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
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Background to the Readings for Leaders

Jesus speaks of the end of time in metaphorical language. He is reminding his listeners that our own lives and our own time on earth will not last forever. Despite the fact that his words describe some devastation, his message is positive, because all the readings point to the reality of peace and fulfilment. The promises made to a needy people who long for peace, are ones filled with hope, and tell us more about the God who makes them than those to whom they are made: a loving and provident God who offers second and third — numberless — chances.

Images from the Readings

- God promises a ruler of integrity and justice
- Safety, peace and protection
- Following God's path
- The Son of Man coming in power and glory
- Watch out and keep praying

Reflection for Leaders

Some of the signs of turmoil and suffering described in the Gospel of Luke are the same as the signs surrounding the death of Jesus: disturbances in the heavens, darkness and menace. These indicate the same type of distress that accompanies any major upheaval – times that shake us completely out of our complacency.

We are invited to stand before the Son of Man to receive the blessings promised by God. This is our invitation to take a watchful attitude in our lives, to keep our destination in mind, so that we don't become preoccupied solely with the things that distract us from what is really important. We need to spend time on the important things, prayer and the work that we are called to do, so that we can stand confidently before him.

What are your goals and the hopes and fears you have for your future?

How are you preparing for the future?

What are the things that really matter to you?

What are the things that distract you from these important issues?

What are the things in your life that might hinder us from standing confidently before Christ?

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline.

With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

With the 5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle and an Advent Wreath

with three purple candles and one pink candle.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

1st Sunday of Advent - Year C

At a suitable moment after the Opening Rites, but before the First Reading is proclaimed, the children are presented with the Children's Lectionary and a candle and sent, with their ministers, to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word, with words of dismissal such as the following:

INVITATION – Pōwhiri I invite the children to join in the procession for their celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

To the Minister of the Word: Receive this Book of Readings and proclaim God's Word faithfully to the children entrusted to your care.

Receive this candle as the light of Christ who is present in his Word.

PROCESSION WITH THE BOOK OF READINGS – Te Kapa o te Pukapuka Tapu

WELCOME – Ko te whakatau

Leader: O God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus.
Help us to get ready to greet you at Christmas and at the end of time.

R **Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalms 25 **Response:**

To you O Lord, I lift my soul

(or another suitable response known by the children)

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A

Advent: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Make a straight path for the Lord._____

Bm G D A G A D

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the hope for the world.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Children: **Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki**

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

Children: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.**

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH THE CHILDREN – Whai Whakaaro

8-12 year olds: Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared introduction and questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

Introduce the children to the Season of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, which is the beginning of the church year. Point out the violet cloth and the Advent Wreath. Explain that the wreath is one way of celebrating this special time of preparation. Its circle of evergreen branches represents God's love which is without beginning or end; one candle is lit each week until Christmas. Some of the end-time images might be frightening for the children, but ensure that they are contained within the context of Jesus' coming and God's love for us ...

- How do you prepare for Christmas? The church helps us to prepare by reminding us what will happen at the end of time.
- What are the things that we can do to make our hearts ready inside for the new birth of Jesus this Christmas?
- Just as we need to do special things to get ready for Christmas, we also need to be ready for the time when Jesus comes again, to welcome him into our hearts and lives today and every day.
- How can we do this?

5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Invite the children to join hands around the focus and together pray a blessing on the wreath and light the first purple candle...

"Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

Children respond,
"Come, Lord Jesus, Come"

- Light the first purple candle.



PROFESSION OF FAITH – Panui o te Whakapono

We believe in God the Father,
who made the whole world.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who was born in Bethlehem
and lived among us,
who died on the cross for us,
and rose from the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who brings life and love to us all.
We believe that the Church is one family,
and that one day
we will share everlasting life
with God in heaven.
Amen.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – *Te Īnoinga o te Hunga Whakapono*

(Here are some suggested intercessions; you are encouraged to compose your own according to the age and experience of the children)

Leader: With glad hearts let us pray to God for all our needs.

- For the church, that it will be a place where truth and justice flourish
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For peace in the war-torn parts of the world
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the land and seasons will bear plenty of food for all the people of the world
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the sick and lonely amongst us will be comforted
Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Saving God, shower your blessings and protection upon us and those for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

The children re-join the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C

Echo Reflections

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Watch out and keep praying

Note to leaders:

Echo reflections are most suited for use with younger children.

An echo reflection is similar to an echo mime but there are not actions. A reader or leader reads and the rest of the children repeat a phrase or short sentence. A child leader may be selected. This child would require a copy of the script in order to know what and when to read. The rest of the children repeat whatever the child leader says. This method avoids having to supply copies of the script for every child.

Reader: Jesus said to his disciples ...

Jesus: There will be signs everywhere...

Reader: Signs everywhere!

Chorus: **Signs everywhere!**

Jesus: Signs in the sun and moon and stars!

Reader: Signs everywhere!

Chorus: **Signs everywhere!**

Jesus: There will be people suffering and dying everywhere!

Reader: Uh-oh!

Chorus: **Uh-oh!**

Leader: One day they will see Jesus coming in a cloud with power and great glory!

Reader: Wow!

Chorus: **Wow!**

Leader: The time is now, so be ready!

Reader: Be ready!

Chorus: **Be ready!**

Jesus: Stay awake! Be ready!

Reader: Be ready!

Chorus: **Be ready!**



From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.