

Children's liturgy – Second Sunday of Advent (Year A) – 4 December 2016

Preparing the worship space

Colour: purple

Song suggestions: Come to set us free (135, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)
O come o come Emmanuel (522, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: We are still in the special time of Advent when we get ready for the coming of Jesus. Today we are going to look at our lives and try to change them for the better, so that we are ready for Jesus.

Opening prayer: God of love, help us always to try to do the right thing, even when we find it hard, so that we are ready when Jesus comes. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Gospel acclamation: everyone stands and sings the gospel acclamation together. Options include: 'Change your lives and believe in him', Christopher Walker; 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional).

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Today we heard a story about John the Baptist. John told everybody that Jesus was coming and that they needed to get ready.

What did you hear about John in this reading? (desert, locusts, honey etc)

John warns the people coming to be baptised that they need to change their lives for the better. This will help them to be ready for Jesus.

Do you think there are things in your life you could do better? Are you always helpful? Do you always share? Do you listen when someone is upset and try to cheer them up? Do you let everyone join in your games?

John the Baptist lived at the time of Jesus. He was a great teacher. In our time we also have great teachers. Oscar Romero is one great example of how to live a good life. Ronaldo, age 10, who lives in El Salvador, says: "Oscar Romero was a very good man. He was very good to people. He helped to rescue people. We should be like him. I want to be brave like Romero."

Oscar Romero changed how we treat people who are poor and in need. He wanted to change all people's lives for the better.

You could share this [animation about Oscar Romero](#) with the children to explain more about his life.

If we change our lives for the better and try to do the right things, we can help to make the world a happier place for other people too.

How are you going to change your life for the better this Advent? What will you do for others so that you are ready when Jesus comes?

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

John the Baptist warned people that they needed to change their lives to be ready for when Jesus came. Together we ask for God's help as we prepare this Advent:

We pray for all world leaders: that they may use their power wisely and to make life better for their people. Lord, hear us...

We pray for the work of CAFOD: that it may continue to help people who are poor around the world to make a better life for themselves and their families. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may take a look at our lives and change them for the better so that the world is a happier and fairer place for all people. Lord, hear us...

Closing prayer: God of life, we give thanks for all those people who are kind to us. Help us to be the best people that we can be in preparation for the coming of your Son Jesus. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the optional accompanying illustration of children changing their lives for the better and helping others. Ask the children to draw what they will do during Advent to help others in the space that has been left in the middle.

In pairs, ask the children to act out an example of sharing, helping someone, or including/welcoming someone to help them to think about the different things that they could do during Advent.

As the children are leaving, remind them what they have thought about during the session and ask them to share this with the people at home. Ask them to do one thing during the next week to help others, so that they can show they are trying to get ready for the arrival of Jesus by changing their lives for the better.