



JOY! TO THE WORLD

ADVENT
WITH ALL SAINTS BOOVAL

“The Lord has made proclamation
to the ends of the earth:
“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your Savior comes!
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.’”
They will be called the Holy People,
the Redeemed of the Lord;
and you will be called Sought After,
the City No Longer Deserted.”

(Isaiah 62: 11-12)

Advent

Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly and realized that you forgot to prepare! Of course you wouldn't allow that to happen, but we do sometimes allow it to happen spiritually speaking. We often are not prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ within our hearts.

The first week of Advent focuses on the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return again, in all splendour and glory, to judge the living and the dead. So, even though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming.

As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus' coming. Are you preparing for it with the same passion that you prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating, etc? Are you looking forward to that day when He will return? Are you preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are you awake and attentive to the many ways that God speaks to you on a daily basis?

If you find that you are not as prepared for his return as you'd like to be, make this Advent and this study series "Joy to the World" a time when you get your heart ready. Commit to prayer, reading the bible, study, reflection and attentiveness to God's voice this Advent.

Rev'd Chris



HOW THEN CAN WE BE SAVED

ADVENT 1 - HOPE

Warm up question:

Have you ever been rescued or have you ever witnessed someone else being rescued?

How did you feel while it was happening? How did you feel when it was over?

Read Isaiah 64:1-12

1. What might Isaiah be feeling at the start of verse 1 that would make him say this?
2. If Isaiah asks God to 'rend' the heavens, do you think he is feeling close to God or far away?
3. In verses 1-2, why does Isaiah say that he wants God to rend (break open) the heavens?
4. In verses 3-4, what might Isaiah be remembering?
5. In verses 5-7, Isaiah asks "can we be saved?" Why is he asking this question? What is he aware of?
6. What do these verses have to say about righteousness/cleanliness and unrighteousness/uncleanliness?
7. What is significant about verse 8? What might Isaiah mean by using this illustration?
8. In verse 9, what reason does Isaiah give for God to forgive them? What do you think about this reason?
9. In verses 10-11, what do we find out about Isaiah's current circumstances?

10. Can we relate to Isaiah's circumstances in what we see around us today?
11. Why do you think Isaiah asks the questions in verse 12?
12. What is your overall perspective on Isaiah's relationship with God from this chapter?

Read Psalm 80:1-19

13. How does Psalm 80 respond to what you have just read in Isaiah 64?
14. What can we say about God as Saviour from Isaiah 64 and Psalm 80?
15. Is there any hope to be found for us in Isaiah 64 and Psalm 80?

Rubber hits the road:

What is your response to the question, "How can we be saved?"

How will the hope that you find in your Saviour Jesus change the way you live your life this week?

PRAYER

Gracious God, how can we be saved apart from your amazing grace? You sent your Son Jesus to save us, and for that we are forever thankful. We pray this week, that you would humble our hearts so that we can see our true need for you. We ask that you would fill our hearts with hope as we think about the love that you have showered upon us. You are our Saviour and we find our rest in you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

FAMILY TIME

Watch: *'THE BIG WORD | Isaiah 64:8 | by Hillsong Kids'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDdB9kgs5p4>

Talk: Have you ever made something out of clay or play dough? What did you make? What does it mean that God is the potter and that we are the clay? Where might God be shaping and moulding you at the moment?

Do: 'Moulding'

Find some clay, plasticine, blue tack, or play dough and spend some time making shapes together. Can you make a snake? Can you make a bowl? Can you make a figure of Jesus? How has Jesus helped mould you since he has saved you? How might Jesus be shaping you right now to help you be involved in his saving work in our world? Pray together.



WHAT THEN SHOULD I CRY?

ADVENT 2 - PEACE

Warm up question:

What comforts you when you are upset? How do you comfort others when they are in need?

Read Isaiah 40:1-11

1. What is the context of this passage? Why do God's people need comforting?
2. In verse 2, what do you think God might be referring to?
3. What comes to mind for when you think of 'preparing a way in the wilderness and making a straight highway in the desert?' What are some Old Testament references and New Testament references?
4. What do you think verse 4 is alluding to? Do you think this is literal or figurative?
5. What do you think verse 5 is speaking about? How does it make you feel to read this verse?
6. In verse 6, why do you think Isaiah was being told to "Cry out"? (think about verse 5)
7. What is the significance of verses 6b-8? What does this have to say about God's promises?
8. How does verse 8 challenge the way you view your relationship with God?
9. In verse 9, why do you think God tells Isaiah to not be afraid in proclaiming "Here is your God!"

10. How do verses 10–11 work together to give us a fuller picture of our God?
11. What is your overall perspective on the future of God’s people from this chapter?

Read Psalm 85:1–13

12. How does Psalm 85 respond to what you have just read in Isaiah 40?
13. What can we say about God as Comforter and Peace–bringer from Isaiah 40 and Psalm 85?
14. Is there any peace to be found for us in Isaiah 40 and Psalm 85?

Rubber hits the road:

What is your response to the question, “What then shall I cry?”

How will the peace that you find in your Shepherd Jesus change the way you live your life this week?

PRAYER

Merciful God, how can we ever thank you enough for forgiving our sins and restoring us as your people? You have truly spoken to us tenderly and have comforted us in our anxieties. We thank you for the peace that we find in your eternal word. Please help us this week to rest in your promises, and to always look to you for our strength and protection. You are our Shepherd and we find our rest in you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

FAMILY TIME

Watch: *‘Isaiah 40:1–11 drawn by Chris Marks’*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_fi2ZjWvKQ

Talk: Does God hear us when we pray to him? How do we know that God hears us when we cry to him? Do you think God cares when his children are crying? How does God respond to the cries of his people?

Do: ‘Sketching’

Listen to Isaiah 40:1–11. As you listen, choose one of the things pictured in the vision (flowers, grass, mountains, sheep, shepherds etc.). Spend some time drawing one of these parts of Isaiah’s vision. Talk about how God cares for these things and how he cares for you enough to listen to you when you call out to him in prayer.



WHEN WILL SALVATION COME

ADVENT 3 - JOY

Warm up question:

When you are having a rough/bad day, is there a happy memory that you like to think about?

Read Isaiah 61:1-11

1. What is the context of this passage? Is it set in a positive section of Isaiah or a negative section?
2. In verse 1 the promised Messiah speaks of the Spirit resting on him. Was it normal for the Spirit to rest on people in the Old Testament? What is special about this situation?
3. What does the phrase “*the Lord has anointed me*” mean?
4. In verse 2 we find that the Messiah will proclaim both the year of God’s favour, and the day of God’s vengeance. Why would the Messiah need to proclaim both of these things?
5. Look at verses 1-3 and list all of the other things that the Messiah has been anointed to do. Why would these things be important?
6. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus is in the Synagogue and reads from this passage. Why is this significant?
7. What is significant about verse 6? Were all the people priests?
8. Using just 1 word, how would you summarise verses 4-7?
9. In verse 8, what does the Lord love and what does he hate? Why is this important?

10. Isaiah concludes the chapter in verses 10–11 with a song of praise. Why is Isaiah praising God?

Read Psalm 126

11. How does Psalm 126 respond to what you have read in Isaiah 61?

12. Why is it important to remember what God has done for us?

13. Is there any joy to be found for us in Isaiah 61 and Psalm 126?

Rubber hits the road:

Take some time to think back on the moments in your life when God showed himself to be faithful. As you wait for God to answer your current prayers, how do these memories shape the way you wait?

PRAYER

Faithful God, we rejoice because you are the Good News. We thank you that you continue to heal, set free, provide for, crown, and bless. Jesus, we wait expectantly for you to come again and make all things new and right. We ask that as we wait, that you would help us to find joy in both our relationship with you, and in the ways that you are working in our lives. We pray this in your mighty name Jesus, Amen.

FAMILY TIME

Watch: *'Isaiah 61 | Trees of Righteousness, the Planting of the Lord'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqYSGSb1Esc>

Talk: What is salvation and how does God save us? What does God want to save us from? How does Jesus save us on the cross? How does Jesus make us right with God and help us to come into his house?

Do: 'Collage'

Pick a verse from Isaiah 61 and using things from nature (leaves, twigs, stones, earth), make a collage depicting that verse. You may want to create a broken heart that has been fixed, or a crown of beauty, or a robe of righteousness. Once you've made your collage you can take a photo of it and share it with your friends, then you can return your materials back into nature.



Warm up question:

When is a time you really enjoyed a homecoming, either your own or of a loved one.

Read 2 Samuel 7:1–16

1. What does v.1 say about all the LORD has done for David? How does David want to respond?
2. How does Nathan respond to David's words to him? Was he right in his response to David?
3. In v.5–16 the LORD responds to David through a vision given to the prophet Nathan. How would you summarise the LORD's response?
4. What do v.5–7 tell us about how the LORD feels about his current living arrangements? What do they tell us about God's love for his people?
5. What do v.8–11 tell us about God's dealings with David and with his people? How does this passage make you feel about God?
6. In v.12–16 God gives Nathan a prophecy about who will build him a temple. Who is it going to be and why does God choose this person (see 1 Kings 9:1–3)?
7. Sadly, the King who built the temple began to worship the God's of his wives towards the end of his life. How does Jesus better fulfill the prophecy given here?
8. Why is the temple so important in the Bible? Who is our temple today (see Hebrews 8:1–6)?

9. In the New Jerusalem at the end of the Bible, there is no temple (see Revelation 21:22–27). Why is there no temple in God’s new heavenly city?
10. One day, at the second advent when Jesus returns to our world, God will welcome all his people into our eternal home. What does 2 Samuel 7:1–16 tell us about God and how he will receive us?

Read Psalm 89.1–4 then verses 19–27

11. What does this Psalm tell us about God’s faithfulness to his promises?
12. What does this Psalm tell us about God’s passion for his people?
13. Why is this a joyful message for all the world this year?

Rubber hits the road:

What is your response to the question, “Who will bring us home?”

How will the hope of this incoming inspire you to live this week?

PRAYER

Loving Lord God, thank you that when David tried to build you a house, you had better ideas. Thank you that your plans are always above our plans and that we can trust you in all things. Thank you that you are so gracious and compassionate and that you have established King Jesus on his rightful throne forever. Help us to trust him for all things and to look for his coming in glory all the days of our lives. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

FAMILY TIME

Watch: ‘*David’s prayers*’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yImbRHFPSHk>

Talk: Why did David want to build God a special house? Why wasn’t David allowed to build the special house? Why was it important to have a temple where people could meet with God? Why is Jesus our temple, where we can meet with God today?

Do: ‘*Temple*’

Using blocks, pillows, lego, or anything else around your house, build a model of a temple. What will you include in your temple and why? Why is meeting with God through Jesus, better than meeting God at a temple?

WEEKDAYS

‘New Testament in a Year’ Reading Plan

June			July			August			September			October			November			December		
1	Mo	Acts 20	1	We	Rom 14	1	Sa		1	Tu	Phil 1	1	Th	2 Tim 1	1	Su		1	Tu	Rev 2
2	Tu	Acts 21	2	Th	Rom 15	2	Su		2	We	Phil 2	2	Fr	2 Tim 2	2	Mo	Jam 2	2	We	Rev 3
3	We	Acts 22	3	Fr	Rom 16	3	Mo	2 Cor 5	3	Th	Phil 3	3	Sa		3	Tu	Jam 3	3	Th	Rev 4
4	Th	Acts 23	4	Sa		4	Tu	2 Cor 6	4	Fr	Phil 4	4	Su		4	We	Jam 4	4	Fr	Rev 5
5	Fr	Acts 24	5	Su		5	We	2 Cor 7	5	Sa		5	Mo	2 Tim 3	5	Th	Jam 5	5	Sa	
6	Sa		6	Mo	1 Cor 1	6	Th	2 Cor 8	6	Su		6	Tu	2 Tim 4	6	Fr	1 Pet 1	6	Su	
7	Su		7	Tu	1 Cor 2	7	Fr	2 Cor 9	7	Mo	Col 1	7	We	Titus 1	7	Sa		7	Mo	Rev 6
8	Mo	Acts 25	8	We	1 Cor 3	8	Sa		8	Tu	Col 2	8	Th	Titus 2	8	Su		8	Tu	Rev 7
9	Tu	Acts 26	9	Th	1 Cor 4	9	Su		9	We	Col 3	9	Fr	Titus 3	9	Mo	1 Pet 2	9	We	Rev 8
10	We	Acts 27	10	Fr	1 Cor 5	10	Mo	2 Cor 10	10	Th	Col 4	10	Sa		10	Tu	1 Pet 3	10	Th	Rev 9
11	Th	Acts 28	11	Sa		11	Tu	2 Cor 11	11	Fr	1 Thes 1	11	Su		11	We	1 Pet 4	11	Fr	Rev 10
12	Fr	Rom 1	12	Su		12	We	2 Cor 12	12	Sa		12	Mo	Phi 1	12	Th	1 Pet 5	12	Sa	
13	Sa		13	Mo	1 Cor 6	13	Th	2 Cor 13	13	Su		13	Tu	Heb 1	13	Fr	2 Pet 1	13	Su	
14	Su		14	Tu	1 Cor 7	14	Fr	Gal 1	14	Mo	1 Thes 2	14	We	Heb 2	14	Sa		14	Mo	Rev 11
15	Mo	Rom 2	15	We	1 Cor 8	15	Sa		15	Tu	1 Thes 3	15	Th	Heb 3	15	Su		15	Tu	Rev 12
16	Tu	Rom 3	16	Th	1 Cor 9	16	Su		16	We	1 Thes 4	16	Fr	Heb 4	16	Mo	2 Pet 2	16	We	Rev 13
17	We	Rom 4	17	Fr	1 Co 10	17	Mo	Gal 2	17	Th	1 Thes 5	17	Sa		17	Tu	2 Pet 3	17	Th	Rev 14
18	Th	Rom 5	18	Sa		18	Tu	Gal 3	18	Fr	2 Thes 1	18	Su		18	We	1 John 1	18	Fr	Rev 15
19	Fr	Rom 6	19	Su		19	We	Gal 4	19	Sa		19	Mo	Heb 5	19	Th	1 John 2	19	Sa	
20	Sa		20	Mo	1 Cor 11	20	Th	Gal 5	20	Su		20	Tu	Heb 6	20	Fr	1 John 3	20	Su	
21	Su		21	Tu	1 Cor 12	21	Fr	Gal 6	21	Mo	2 Thes 2	21	We	Heb 7	21	Sa		21	Mo	Rev 16
22	Mo	Rom 7	22	We	1 Cor 13	22	Sa		22	Tu	2 Thes 3	22	Th	Heb 8	22	Su		22	Tu	Rev 17
23	Tu	Rom 8	23	Th	1 Cor 14	23	Su		23	We	1 Tim 1	23	Fr	Heb 9	23	Mo	1 John 4	23	We	Rev 18
24	We	Rom 9	24	Fr	1 Cor 15	24	Mo	Eph 1	24	Th	1 Tim 2	24	Sa		24	Tu	1 John 5	24	Th	Rev 19
25	Th	Rom 10	25	Sa		25	Tu	Eph 2	25	Fr	1 Tim 3	25	Su		25	We	2 John 1	25	Fr	Rev 20
26	Fr	Rom 11	26	Su		26	We	Eph 3	26	Sa		26	Mo	Heb 10	26	Th	3 John 1	26	Sa	
27	Sa		27	Mo	1 Cor 16	27	Th	Eph 4	27	Su		27	Tu	Heb 11	27	Fr	Jude 1	27	Su	
28	Su		28	Tu	2 Cor 1	28	Fr	Eph 5	28	Mo	1 Tim 4	28	We	Heb 12	28	Sa		28	Mo	Rev 21
29	Mo	Rom 12	29	We	2 Cor 2	29	Sa		29	Tu	1 Tim 5	29	Th	Heb 13	29	Su		29	Tu	Rev 22
30	Tu	Rom 13	30	Th	2 Cor 3	30	Su		30	We	1 Tim 6	30	Fr	Jam 1	30	Mo	Rev 1	30	We	
			31	Fr	2 Cor 4	31	Mo	Eph 6				31	Sa					31	Th	

Daily Prayer

*Just as we eat, sleep and work every day,
prayer has a place in our daily routine.*

*Find a place in your home – inside or outside –
that you can make your ‘prayer space’.*

*Include all the members of your family – partners, children, animals – in this
space. Feel free to also include music in this time.*

PRAISE

God is love. Since God loves us, we should love one another.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Turn for help to the Lord your strength:
and constantly seek God’s presence.

Remember the marvellous things the Most High has done:
the wonders, and the judgments God has given.

Psalm 105:4-5

BIBLE READING

At the end of the reading:

Hear the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

PRAYERS

Loving God, thank you for this day.

Thank you for your love and care for us.

Thank you for making each of us special.

Help us today to be kind to each other. **Amen.**

God of mercy, we are sorry that we have not always done what you wanted us to do. We have not loved you with all our heart, and we have not cared enough for other people. Forgive us, for Jesus’ sake. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, at Nazareth you shared in the life of your family. Help us to live together in our family with love and respect for each other. Make our home a place of blessing, peace and joy for everyone, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

A COLLECT

In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S LIGHT

Eternal God, shed your light on us who watch for you,
that our lips may praise you,
our hearts bless you,
and our lives glorify you,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Include your own personal prayers.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all. **Amen.**

Anglican
Church

All Saints' Booval