



Messy Church

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Be a part of St John's Messy Church at home today**

## **Worship**

Prayer: God we thank you that you are here with us now and also with our families and friends in their homes today. Amen

It has been estimated that if you live to be seventy years old, you will spend three years of your life just waiting. Waiting in line at the shop, waiting for a bus, waiting for lunch to be ready, waiting for someone to arrive, waiting for the rain to stop. The list goes on and on.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church year. So Advent this year starts on the 29<sup>th</sup> November (not the 1<sup>st</sup> December).

There are four Sundays in Advent when we focus on different themes and people, and these are represented on the advent wreath by four candles:

Week 1 - **Hope** - God's people. Blue/purple candle

Week 2 - **Peace** - the Old Testament prophets. Blue/purple candle

Week 3- **Love** - John the Baptist. Blue/purple candle

Week 4 - **Joy** - Mary. Pink candle

In the centre of the advent wreath is a white candle, lit on Christmas Day and representing Jesus.

Advent means "to come." Do you know what's coming? Of course, Christmas is coming. This is an exciting time, but it may also be a difficult time of waiting -- especially for children. Waiting for the day when you can open the gifts that you see under the tree. This year we are also waiting to see how we will be able to celebrate Christmas. It is going to be different.

What can we do to make this time of waiting for Christmas more than just a useless time? Well, we can think about the true meaning of Christmas. We can think about Jesus and his love. We can think about giving instead of receiving. We can enjoy all of beautiful music and the decorations of the season.

We are waiting for Christmas, but we are also waiting for something else. We are waiting for Jesus' return. He told us that he would come again and he told us to watch and be ready for him. What should we do while we are waiting? We should worship and praise him, love and serve him, and share his love with others. When we are doing those things, we will be ready for his return.

Do you like waiting? I don't, but life goes on, and there are things we can do.

- ❖ Wait with the Hope, Peace, Love and Joy that we can have in our lives if we keep Jesus at the centre of all that we do.
- ❖ Light your candle each day in Advent.
- ❖ Open the doors on your advent calendar or mark each week with your advent wreath.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we spend time in this waiting place, we look forward with great joy to the celebration of Jesus' birth and to the day when he comes again. May we experience your hope, peace, love and joy in our lives. Amen.

Finish with the Messy Grace:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore,



# Amen!



