



Challenge:

There are normally four candles on the outside of an Advent Wreath and one in the middle. Can you ask someone or research online about who each of the candles is meant to remind us of?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to be calm and patient as we wait for you this Advent, and to trust the future to your wise and loving care. Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

1 December

WAIT

Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

Psalm 27.17





Challenge:

What things help you to be calm? Make time today to do something that helps you to feel calm and to look forward with hope.

Prayer:

Loving God, Gabriel encouraged Mary to be calm and to hear the good news he brought her. Help us find moments of calm today as we look forward with hope to Jesus' birth at Christmas. Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

2 December

BE CALM

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.'

Luke 1.30





Challenge:

Ask yourself what you hope for this Christmas – apart from presents! Perhaps write it down or draw a picture of it to remind you. And maybe ask a friend or family member what they are hoping for, too?

Prayer:

Dear God, fill us with your hope today day, and help us to walk your way of peace. Amen.

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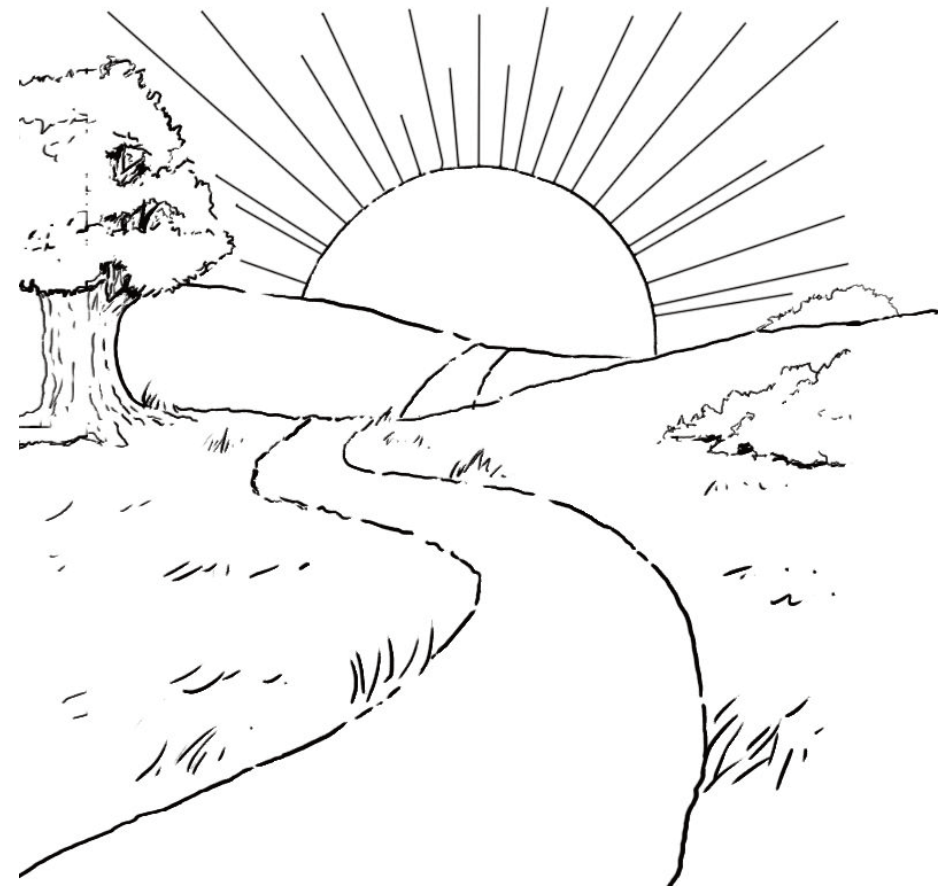
ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

3 December

HOPE

'By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us ... to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

Luke 1.78,79





Challenge:

Can you think of anyone who is in need just now? Is there a way you and your household might be able to offer them help – and hope – as Christmas approaches?

Prayer:

Jesus, as we get ready for your coming, help us, like John, to prepare your way by offering help and hope to others. Amen.

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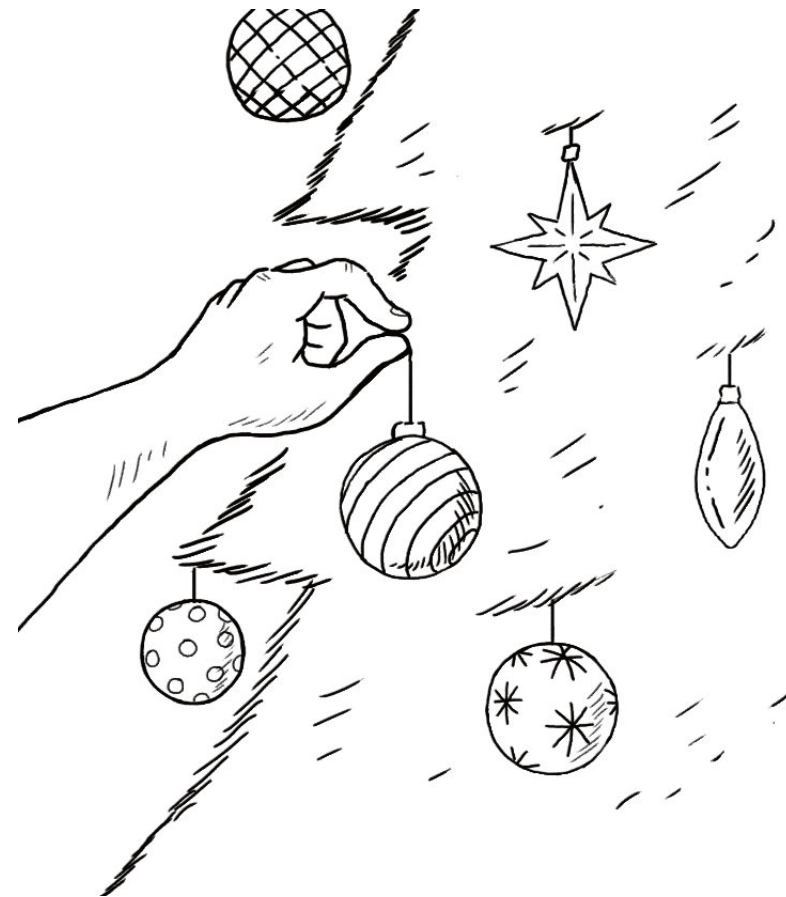
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4 December

PREPARE

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.'

Isaiah 40.3





Challenge:

You might make yourself a 'Keep Awake' sign, draw or colour in a picture of a cockerel. Put it where you will see it early in the morning throughout Advent as a reminder to watch out for ways to welcome Jesus.

Prayer:

Jesus our Saviour, help us this Advent to keep awake and watch out for your hope and love in our lives. Amen.

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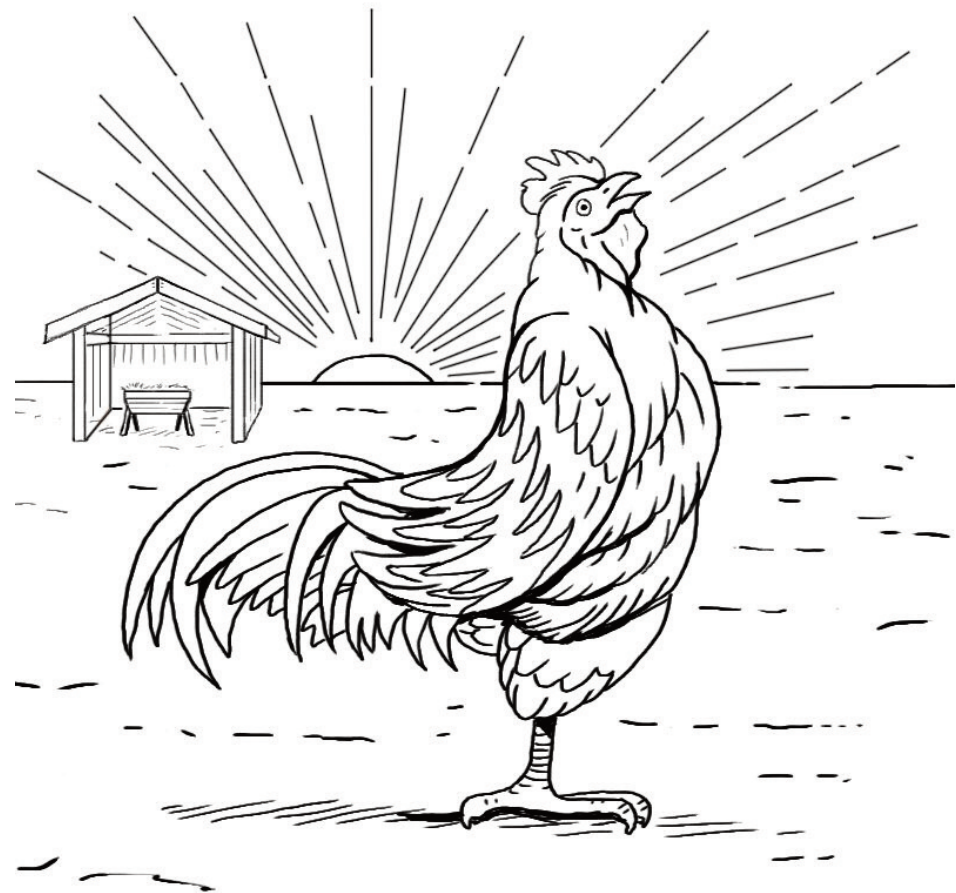
ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

5 December

KEEP AWAKE

*... It is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.
For ... the night is far gone, the day is near.*

Romans 13.11-12a



Challenge:

Many artists over the years and from all over the world have pictured the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary. Search online for paintings of 'The Annunciation' – or look out for them on Christmas cards. Notice how different artists have shown Mary. Do they all show her looking calm and trusting?

Prayer:

Wise and Loving God, help us, like Mary, to calmly trust our future to you, today and every day. Amen.

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6 December

TRUST

Mary said to the angel, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

Luke 1.38a





Follow The Star

CALM and BRIGHT

Challenge:

Whatever is going on for you today, try to enjoy some moments of rest and quiet. And watch out for anyone else who might need to take a break, too.

Prayer:

God our maker, thank you for your gift of rest. Help us to make space for quiet and rest on our Advent journey. Amen.

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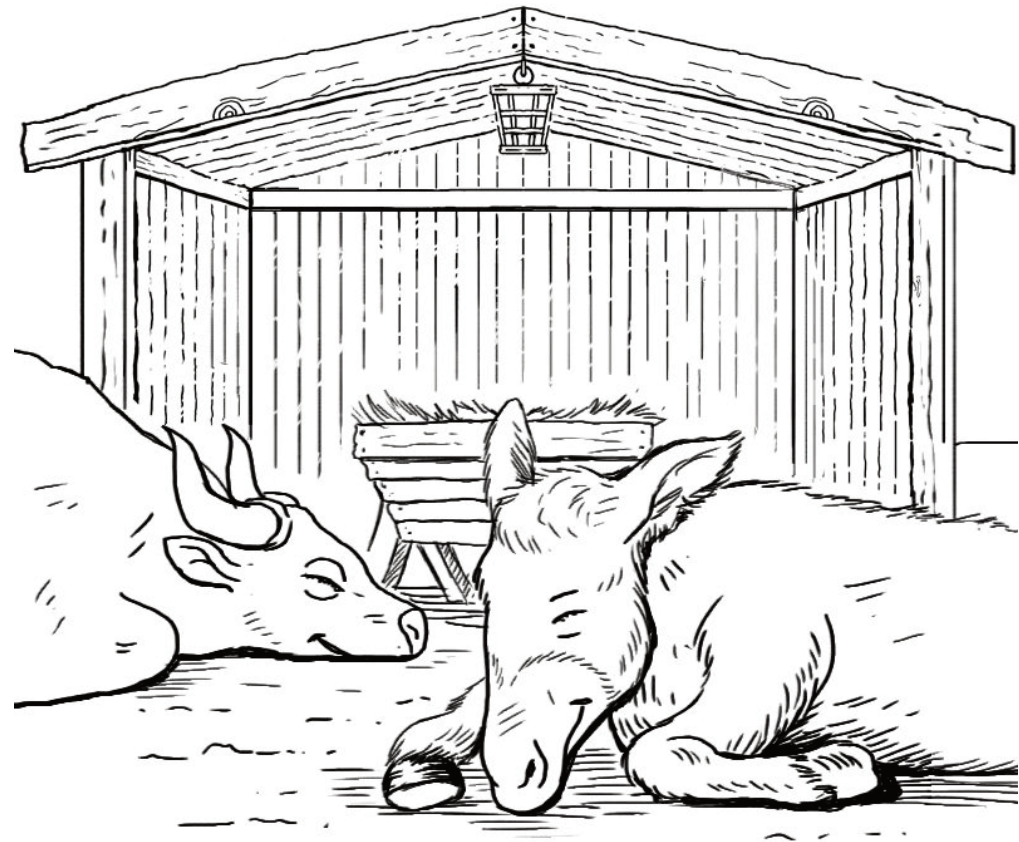
ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

7 December

REST

In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30.15b





Challenge:

Explore how you and your household might find a new way of making Christmas special this year. Are there new people and places you might include in your plans?

Prayer:

Loving God, help us today to be open to find you in new places and serve you in new ways.
Amen.

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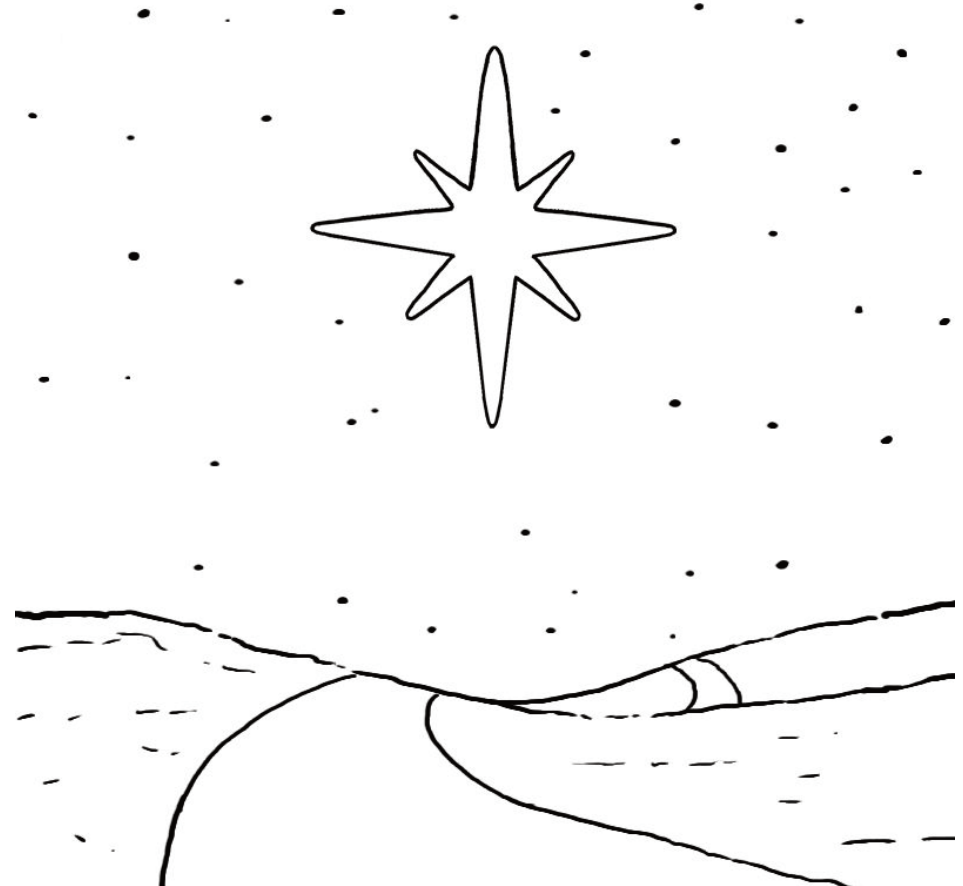


8 December

EXPLORE

Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

Matthew 2.1b,2



Challenge:

We may not find ourselves dreaming of angels. But paying attention to our dreams – and our daydreams – can help us to notice important things. Spend some time today thinking about your dreams, your hopes for yourself and for the world. You might want to draw a picture or write a short poem about the changes you dream of.

Prayer:

Loving God, we bring before you our dreams and our worries. Guide us in all we think and what we do today. Amen.

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9 December

DREAM

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife ... She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Matthew 1.20b,21





Challenge:

Can you make peace today by saying sorry to someone you have hurt or disagreed with?

Prayer:

Jesus, Prince of Peace, help us to follow your example and know your peace today. Amen.

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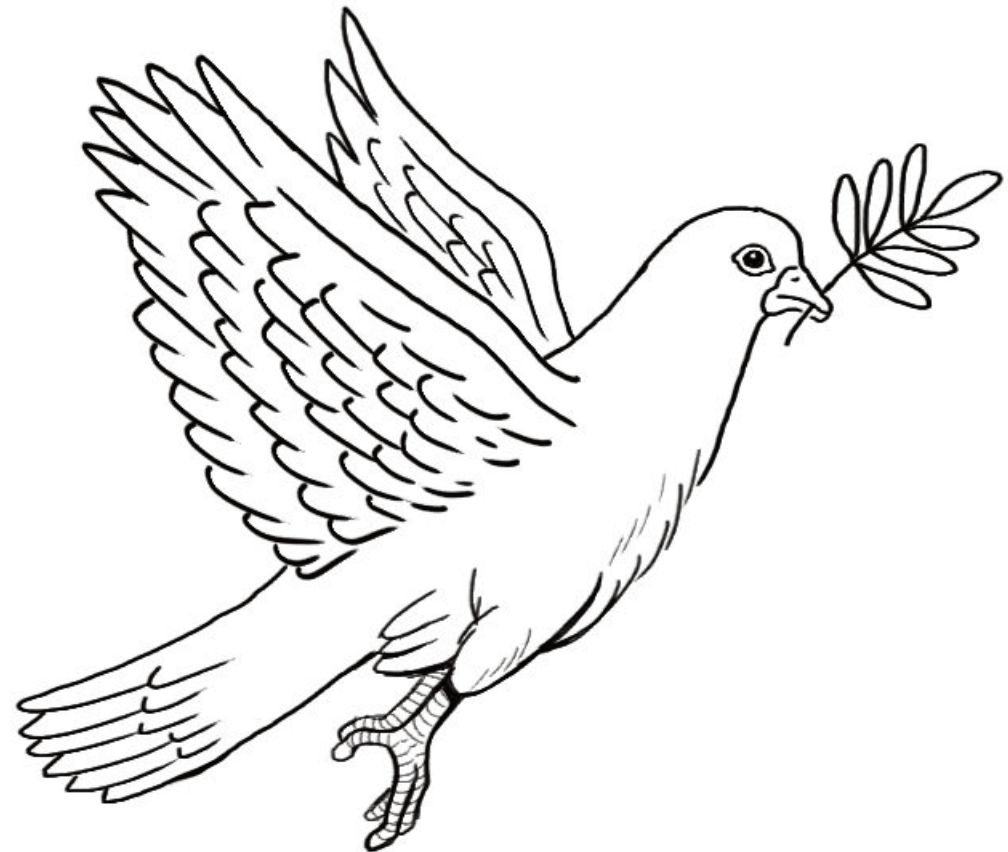


10 December

MAKE PEACE

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4.7





Follow The Star

CALM and BRIGHT

Challenge:

Pray today for someone who is having to be very patient – perhaps someone who is ill, or who is not able to be with people they love this Christmas.

Prayer:

Loving God, help us all to be patient in hard times, and grateful in good times. Amen.

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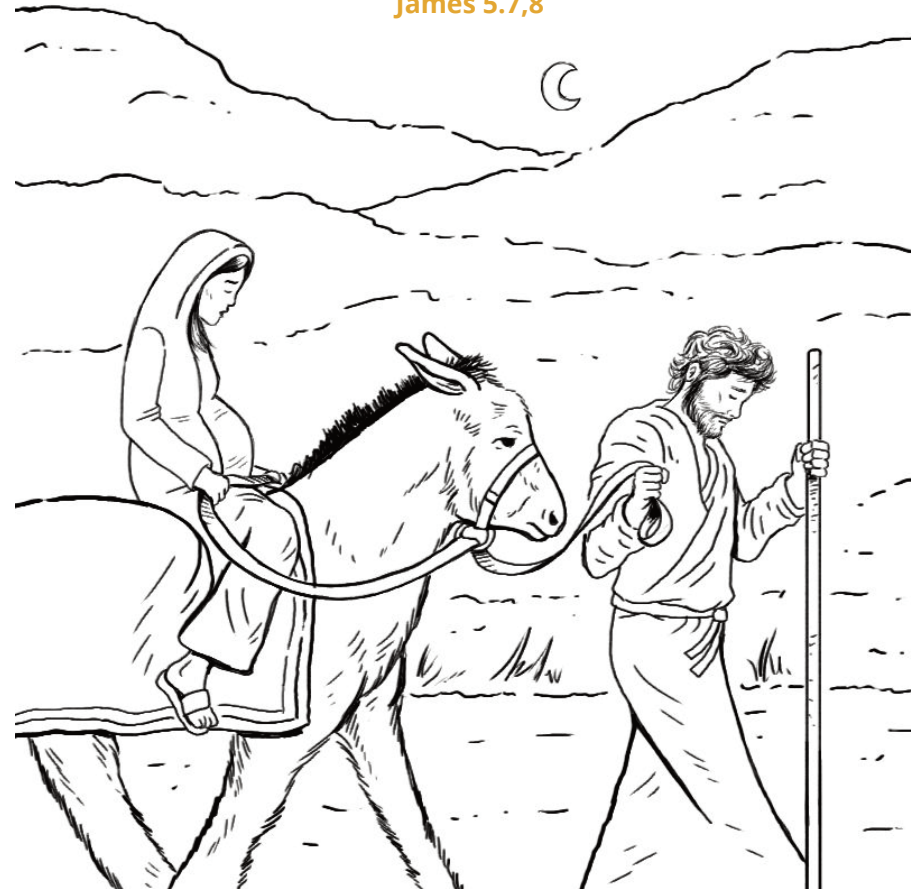
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11 December

BE PATIENT

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

James 5.7,8





Challenge:

Find a place to be still. Focus on a candle or a picture of something that helps you feel calm. Breathe slowly and gently and say to yourself the words Jesus spoke to the storm: 'Peace! Be Still!'

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, be close to us in every moment of today. Help us to be still and to know your peace, especially when we are unhappy or afraid. Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

12 December

BE STILL

Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

Mark 4.39





Challenge:

Spend some time thinking of ways you could be generous this Advent. It might involve donating to a local charity or food bank, but there are lots of other ways to show generosity.

Prayer:

Generous God, inspire us to be generous to others with whatever we have – our things, our time, our love – for your sake. Amen.

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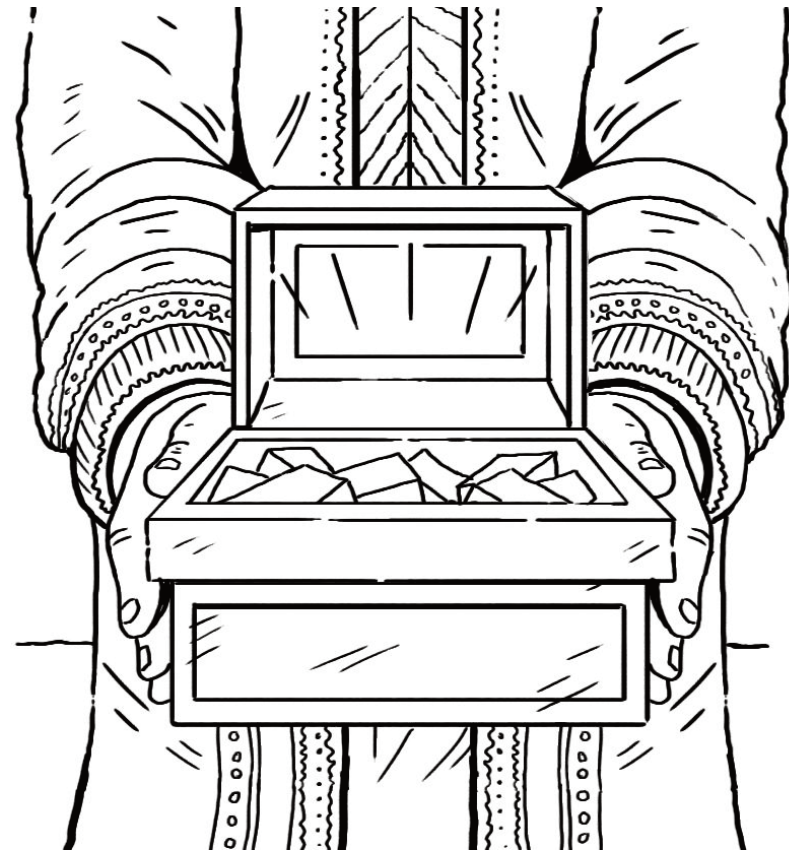
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13 December

BE GENEROUS

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Proverbs 22.9





Challenge:

Who do you know who might be in need of comfort today? (It might even be you!) Is there something you could do to bring about comfort and peace?

Prayer:

Comfort us, Lord Jesus, when we are frightened or sad. And help us as we try to share that comfort with others. Amen.

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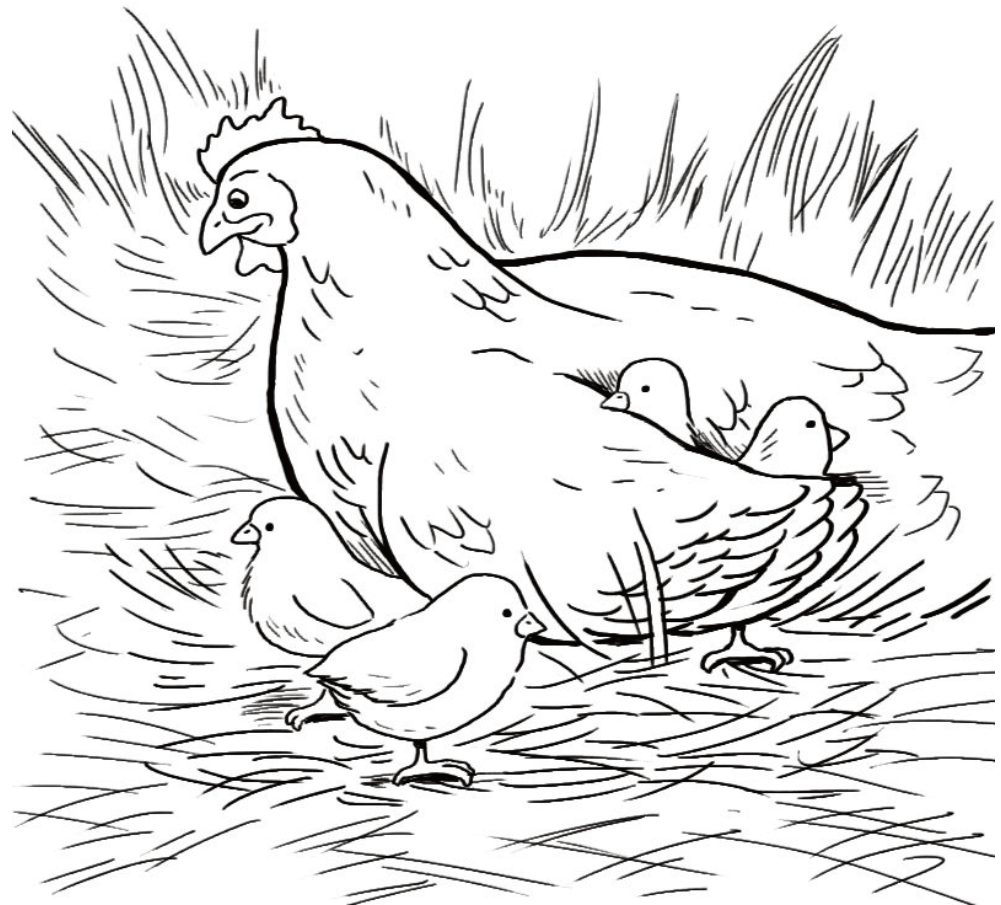


14 December

COMFORT

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Isaiah 40.1





Follow The Star

CALM and BRIGHT

Challenge:

Make a list of the things you enjoy about celebrating Christmas. Notice if any of the things on your list involve sharing or joining in with others. Is there one more thing you might share this year?

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for all the good things you have shared with us. Help us to share who we are and what we have with this Christmas.
Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

15 December

SHARE

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share ... so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

1 Timothy 6.18,19



Challenge:

Watch or listen to the news today. Notice any stories that make you feel afraid or sad. Take a moment to pray for these situations. Notice, too, any good news – and thank God for this.

Prayer:

Loving God, whatever happens today, help us today to remember the good news of your love for us, and not to be afraid. Amen.

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16 December

FEAR NOT

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'

Luke 2.8-10





Follow The Star

CALM and BRIGHT

Challenge:

Try to sing or listen to your favourite Christmas music today, and share it with others if you can.

Prayer:

Dear God, help us to hear the angels' song of peace and goodwill Christmas, to join in with it. Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

17 December

SING

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Luke 2.13,14





Challenge:

Spend some time today – or tonight – wondering at God’s creation. Spend some time looking at the stars, exploring a park or finding out some amazing facts about the natural world.

Prayer:

Creator God, thank you for the wonders of your creation, and for the wonder of your birth as our Saviour, Jesus. Amen.

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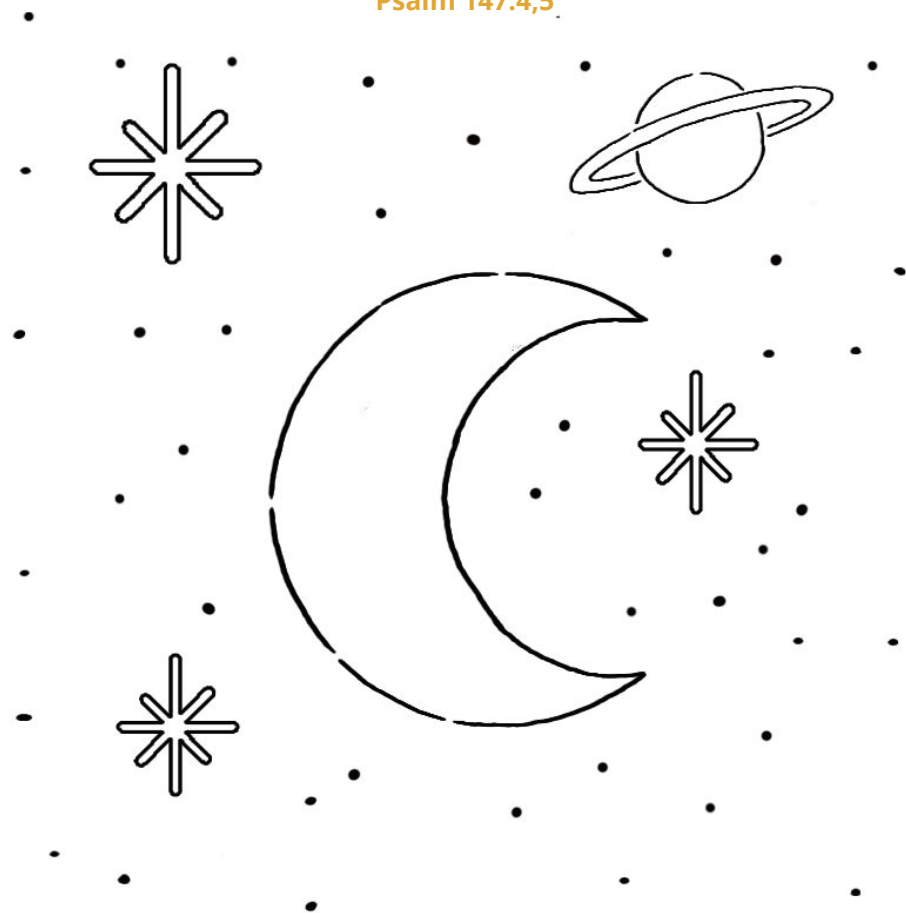


18 December

WONDER

*He counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his wisdom is beyond all telling.*

Psalm 147.4,5





Challenge:

There are bright moments in almost everyone's life, in almost every day. Look out for any bright moments today – and take time to remember and thank God for them at the end of the day.

Prayer:

Lord of all joy, help us to make the most of the bright moments of this day and be thankful for all the good things you give us.
Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

19 December

REJOICE

The shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Luke 2.15b-17





Challenge:

Think about ways you can praise God as Christmas approaches. Could your household join with others in church at a crib or Christingle service?

You can find details of special celebrations happening near you over the next few days by visiting AChurchNearYou.com

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your amazing love for us all. May we make time to praise you this Christmas and always. Amen.

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20 December

PRAISE

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2.20





Follow The Star

CALM and BRIGHT

Challenge:

Pray today for churches, charities and community groups working hard over Christmas to offer welcome, food and shelter to those who are lonely or in need.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless all those in need of shelter and a warm welcome this Christmas, and bless all working to help them. Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

21 December

WELCOME

While they were in Bethlehem ... Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2.6,7





Challenge:

Can you find a time and place today where you can spend a few moments just being calm and still and reflecting on the amazing story of Jesus' birth?

Prayer:

Loving God, help us to follow Mary's example and make time to spend quietly with you this Christmas. Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

22 December

PONDER

*All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.*

Luke 2.18,19





Challenge:

Try and learn the words of a grace before meals to pray. (We'll be using one in a moment as today's prayer, but there are lots of others.)

Try to share it with others in the next few days – perhaps at a special dinner, or even and ordinary breakfast!

Prayer:

Thank you for the world so sweet.
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you, God, for everything.

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23 December

GIVE THANKS

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5.16-18





Challenge:

How will you worship the newborn King this year? If you can, spend some time in front of a crib at church or at home.

You and your family are welcome at church this Christmas. You can find out where crib services and other special Christmas celebrations are happening near you today and tomorrow by visiting AChurchNearYou.com

Prayer:

Jesus, Prince of Peace, we have come, like the wise men, to worship you. Help us to love you and to share your love with others, this Christmas and always. Amen.

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ADVENT CALENDAR ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

24 December

WORSHIP

When the wise men saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.

Matthew 2.10,11 (KJV)

