THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

In Advent, we spend time waiting and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Challenge:

Try counting all the times you have to wait for something today. Maybe you could pray today's prayer while you wait!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, please fill us with joy as we wait for you this Advent. Help me to get ready to celebrate your birth at Christmas. Amen.

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

1 December

A IS FOR ADVENT

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'

John 1.1



Jesus wasn't born in an important city or in a palace – he was born in a small town called Bethlehem.

Challenge:

Make a sign or poster saying 'God is here' to put up somewhere in your home. This is a reminder that God is with us in all the ordinary places and moments of our day.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you that you are present in all the places, moments or people that I might think are ordinary. Help me look for you everywhere. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

2 December

B IS FOR BETHLEHEM

"'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Matthew 2.6



The Bible describes the birth of Jesus like a light shining in a dark place, helping us to see and turning our fear into joy.

Challenge:

Turn off all the lights and close the curtains in a room in your home. With an adult, light a candle somewhere safe in that room. Notice the difference it makes and say a prayer.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you come as Light of the world. Help me to share your light with everyone I meet. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

3 December

C IS FOR CANDLES

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

Isaiah 9.2



THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

The story leading up to the birth of Jesus includes many different ordinary people, like David. God did special things in their lives and he can do the same in our lives too.

Challenge:

Draw a map of all the different people in your life – the people you live with, your friends, teachers and anyone else you can think of. It's amazing to think that God knows and loves every single person, just as he loves you.'

Prayer:

Thank you, God, that you know and love me. Help me discover how I am part of your story. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

4 December

D IS FOR DAVID

'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

Revelation 22.16



THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

One of the names given to Jesus is 'Emmanuel', meaning 'God is with us'. God is not distant. In Jesus, God chooses to come as close as possible to us.

Challenge:

Do you know anyone who is alone or feeling lonely? What could you do to tell them that you are thinking of them and you care about them?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you that you choose to be with us. Show me how I can follow your example and show your love by being with others. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

5 December

E IS FOR EMMANUEL

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us."

Matthew 1.23



Some months before Jesus' birth, another baby was born. He would be known as John the Baptist and he helped people get ready for all that Jesus was coming to do.

Challenge:

Find out more about who John the Baptist was. What did he eat? What did he wear? You might use a Bible, ask someone else or search online.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for all the people who show us how to love and follow you. We pray that you would encourage each of them today. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

6 December

F IS FOR FORERUNNER

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John … He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God."

Luke 1.13,16



ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

7 December

G IS FOR GABRIEL

The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

Luke 1.19



Angels are messengers who bring God's news to the world. The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah and to Mary, telling them that two special babies will be born: John the Baptist and Jesus.

Challenge:

We can also be messengers who share hope with others. Who could you bring joy to by sending them a Christmas card? You could even make the card yourself!

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you that you speak to us in lots of different ways. Help us to hear your voice and be messengers of your good news. Amen.

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The Bible tells us that, because of Jesus, each one of us can become a child of God. With God as our Father, we can be filled with hope. We know that God is making all things new.

Challenge:

Ask five people you know what they hope for. Perhaps you could write these things down and turn them into a prayer to God.

Prayer:

Thank you, God, that we can be your children. Help us to be filled with hope as we put all our trust in you. Amen.

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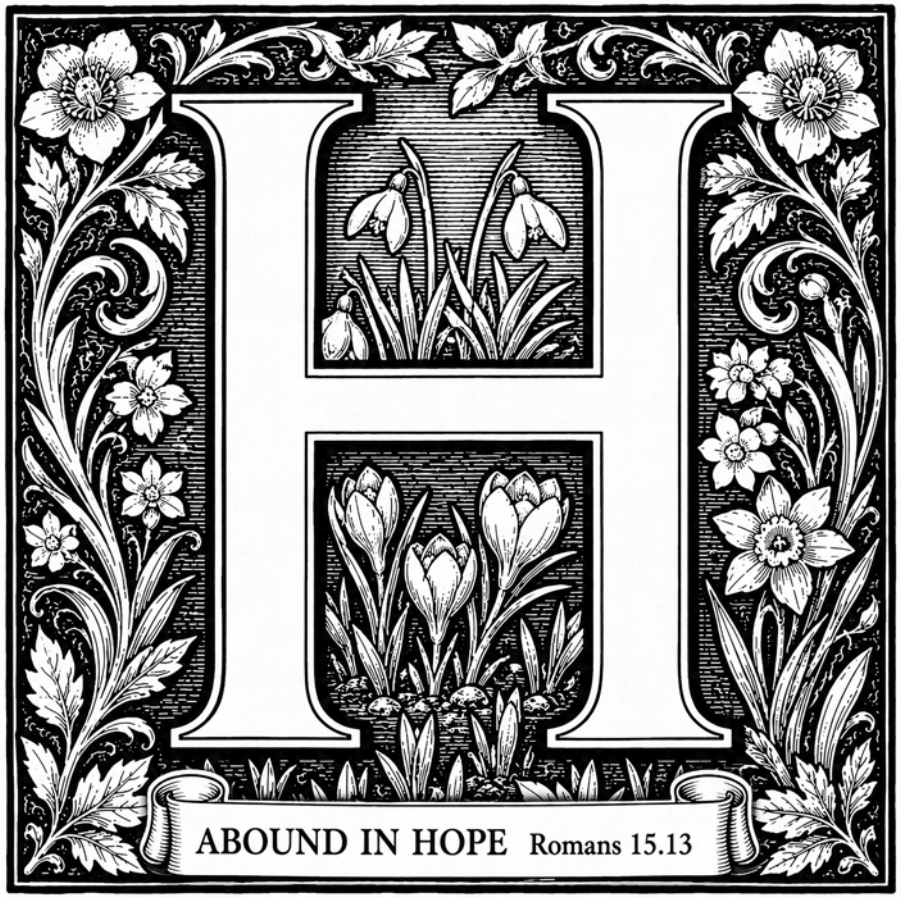
ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

8 December

H IS FOR HOPE

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1.12-13



THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

At Christmas we celebrate that, in Jesus, God was born as a human being. Jesus lived a full human life and understands everything we go through.

Challenge:

Spend a few minutes talking to Jesus about whatever is on your mind, knowing that he listens and understands completely.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you were born as one of us. Thank you that you understand every part of my life. Help me to come to you with all my joys and worries. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

9 December

I IS FOR INCARNATION

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1.14



Joseph is engaged to Mary when an angel tells him that Jesus is God's son. He becomes Jesus' adoptive father, helping to look after him and bring him up.

Challenge:

We've reached day ten of Advent from A to Z. Look back at the different people in the Christmas story we've met so far. Who stands out to you and why?

Prayer:

Dear God, when life doesn't go the way I had expected, help me to trust you. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

10 December

J IS FOR JOSEPH

… an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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



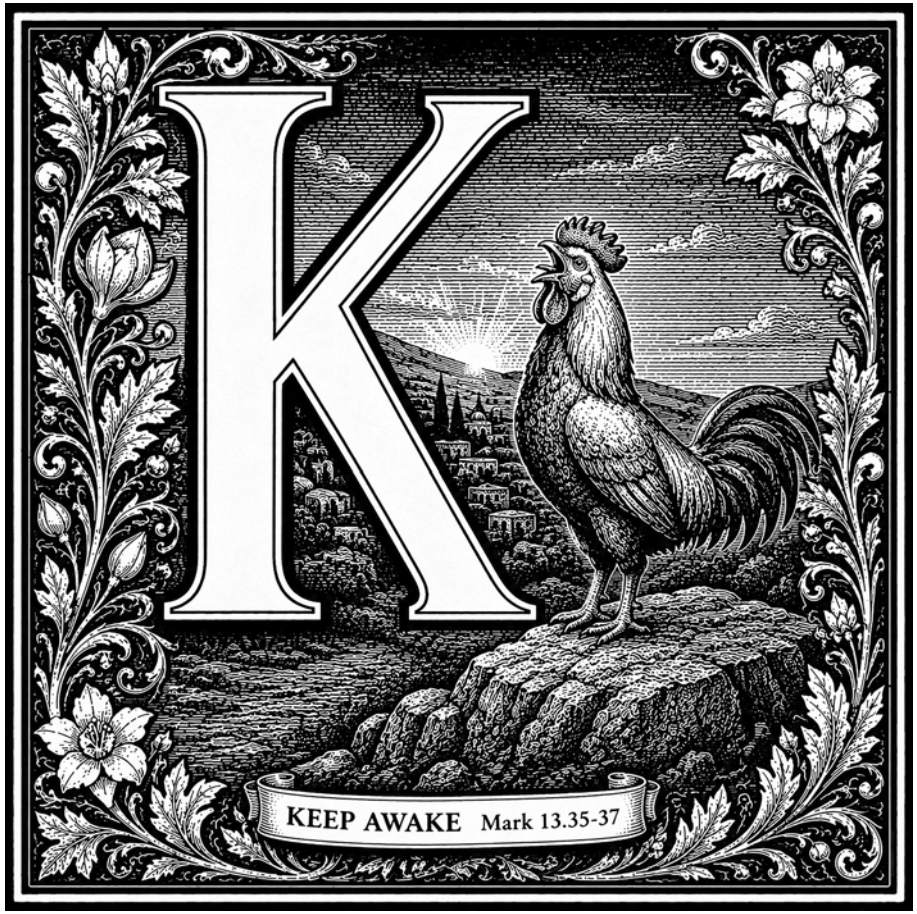
ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

11 December

K IS FOR ‘KEEP AWAKE’

‘… Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn …’

Mark 13.35



Jesus tells us to ‘keep awake’ – to live our lives always ready for the time when he will come back.

Challenge:

One way we can get ready to meet Jesus is to build some good habits that help us get to know him better. Can you think of a habit you could continue or start? You might read a Bible story before bed, talk to Jesus at a particular time of day or something else.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to know you more each day so that we are ready for your coming. Amen.

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THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

In Advent we think about the ways God will make all things good in the end.

Challenge:

How do you imagine a world where everything has been healed and made beautiful? Try drawing a picture or making a collage to show what this might look like.

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you that you will make everything good. Show us how we can join in. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

12 December

L IS FOR LAST THINGS

'Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.'

1 Corinthians 4.5



Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she would be Jesus' mother.

Challenge:

The Bible tells us about several other times when Mary was present in the life of Jesus and his disciples. Can you find out how many times she appears?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to follow you wherever you go and to welcome you into every part of our lives. Amen.

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13 December

M IS FOR MARY

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

Luke 1.30-31



Many years before Jesus was born, prophets told God's people that he would be coming. Jesus is given many different names – each one describes him differently.

Challenge:

Our Bible verse today gives us some ways we might describe Jesus: 'wonderful', 'mighty', 'everlasting'. What other ways would you describe Jesus? Ask other people you know how they would describe Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear God, you are wonderful and mighty, your love is never-ending. Help me keep discovering more and more about you. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

14 December

N IS FOR NAMES

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9.6



THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Mary becomes the mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. We can also be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Challenge:

In another part of the Bible, we discover that people who are filled with the Holy Spirit are people who show: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Which of these do you find easy? Which are more difficult?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, please fill me. Help me to love everyone I meet today. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

15 December

O IS FOR OVERSHADOW

The angel said to [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Luke 1.35



Like Lent, Advent is a season when we look at things we might need to say sorry for or change. Purple is the colour that marks these special seasons in the Church's year.

Challenge:

Could you wear something purple today to remind you and other people that it is Advent?

Prayer:

Dear God, when we make mistakes, help us to say sorry, knowing that you love us all the time. Amen.

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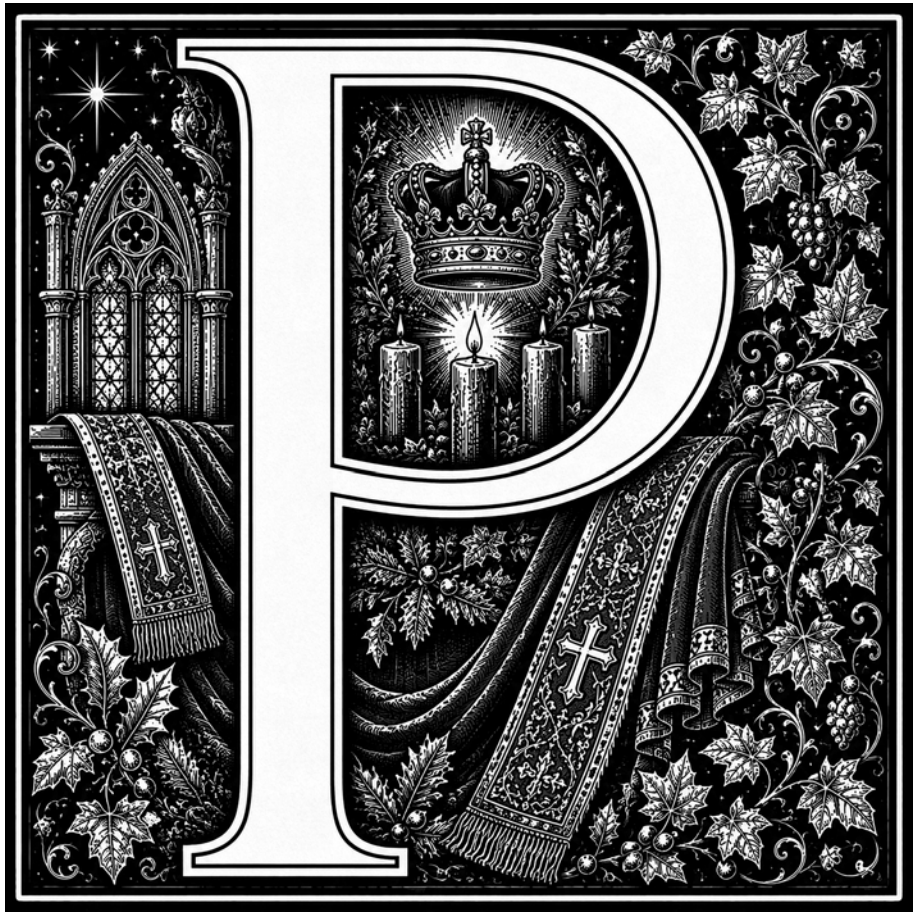
ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

16 December

P IS FOR PURPLE

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Matthew 3.1-2



THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

The Bible tells us the names of the people – like Quirinius – who were powerful at the time when Jesus was born. These facts helps us to know when these things happened in history.

Challenge:

Who are the people in charge in your school, your community and the wider world? See how many people you can think of. Ask God to help each one make wise and kind decisions.

Prayer:

Dear God, we pray for leaders. Please give them courage and wisdom to act for peace and justice so that everyone can live life to the full. Amen.

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17 December

Q IS FOR QUIRINIUS

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Luke 2.1-2



Advent is a time when we remember Jesus' birth and we also look forward to Jesus' return to earth in the future.

Challenge:

What are the questions you would most like to ask Jesus when he returns?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you that we can look forward to being with you and that we can come to you with all our questions. Amen.

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18 December

R IS FOR RETURN

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Luke 1.7-8



The wise men followed a star which
led them to the place where Jesus was born.

Challenge:

Did you know that astronomers think that there are about 100 thousand million stars in the Milky Way? What are the other things in God's creation that make you say 'Wow'?

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for your amazing Creation. We praise you for everything that makes us go 'Wow'!

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

19 December

S IS FOR STAR

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, 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 2.1-2



As we think about Jesus' birth at Christmas and his return in the future, we learn to trust God's timing.

Challenge:

God knows every part of our lives – everything that has happened and everything that will happen. Think back over this past year. What were some of the good surprises? Thank God for these.

Prayer:

Dear God, it is so good to know that the past, present and future are in your hands. Help me to know that you are always with me. Amen.

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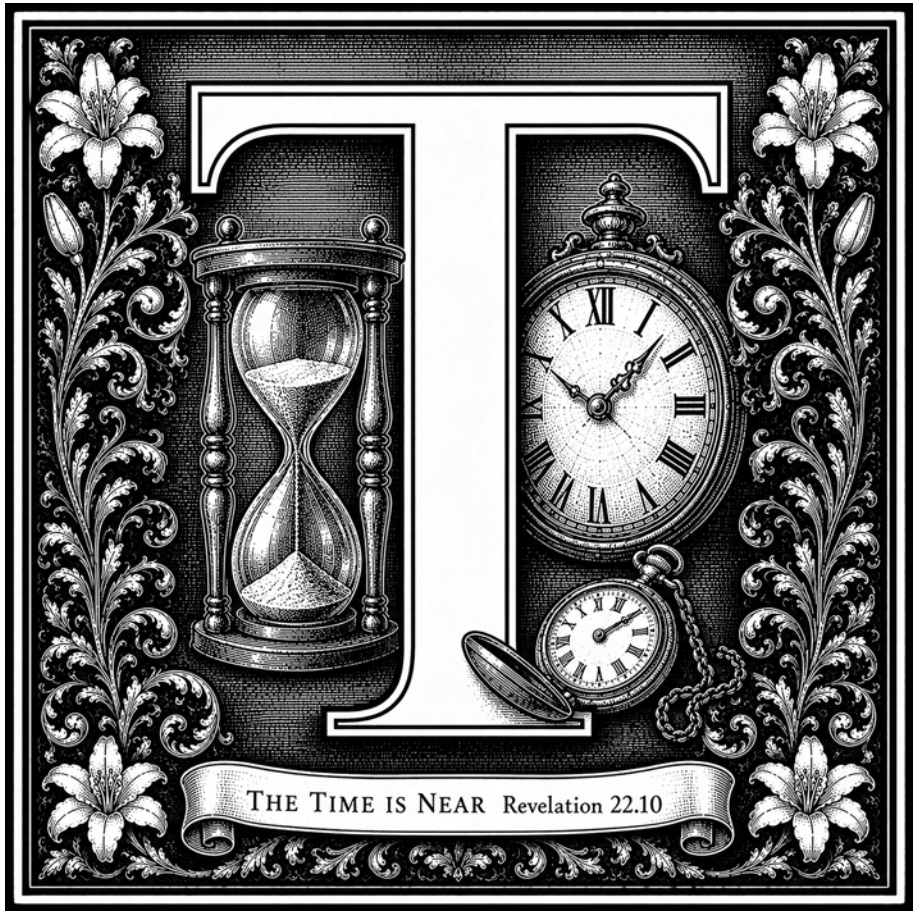
ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

20 December

T IS FOR TIME

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

2 Peter 3.8



Even though Jesus is God's son –
the most important person in history –
he comes as a baby and gives up his life
so that he can serve others.

Challenge:

Think of one way that you could help another person today – and then do it!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you love us so much that you gave us everything. Help us to be kind to every person we meet. Amen.

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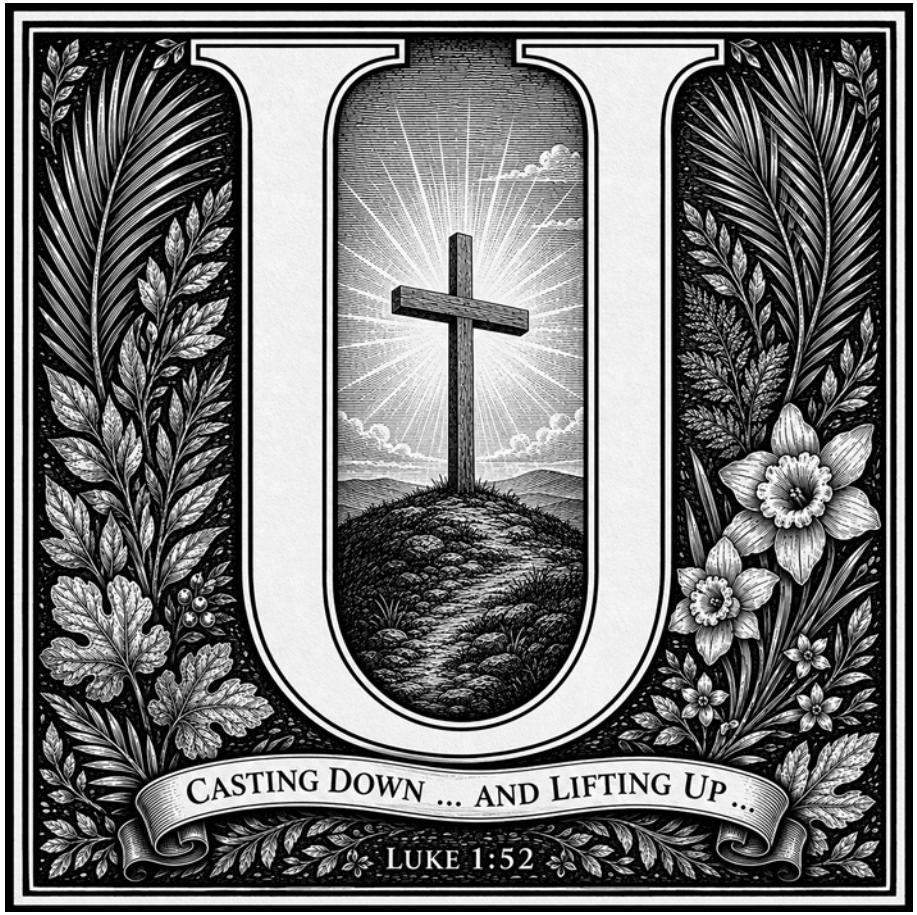
ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

21 December

U IS FOR UPSIDE DOWN

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself …

Philippians 2.5-7a



ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

22 December

V IS FOR VISITATION

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb ..."

Luke 1.41-42



Before Jesus is born, Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth who is expecting the baby, John the Baptist.

Challenge:

Who could you visit or call today to let them know that they are special to you?

Prayer:

God of love, thank you that you bring us joy through other people. Help us to bring others joy by being with them. Amen.

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At Christmas, we worship God who created everything and who is born as a baby. We can worship God in lots of different ways.

Challenge:

Do you know any songs which praise God? If you do, you could sing it now. If not, could you find one to listen to and learn?

Prayer:

Amazing God, fill our hearts with wonder and joy as we worship you. Amen.

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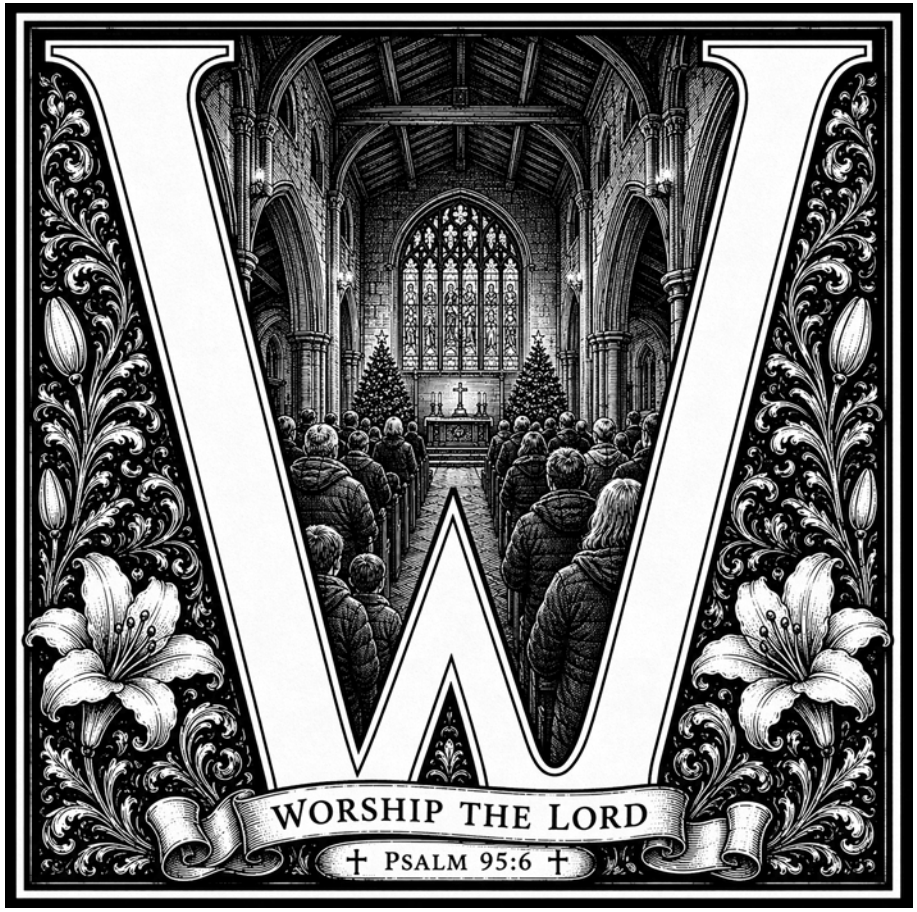
ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

23 December

W IS FOR WORSHIP

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour …'

Luke 1.46-47



On this Christmas Eve, we join in with Zechariah who praised God for all that he was going to do through the birth of Jesus.

Challenge:

Sometimes we don't notice where God is or what he's doing. Ask God for help to notice him and praise him this Christmas.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you that you brought joy and hope through the birth of your Son, Jesus. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to notice you and worship you every day. Amen.

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ADVENT ACTIVITY AND COLOURING SHEET

24 December

XYZ IS FOR ZECHARIAH

'Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them …"

Luke 1.67-68

