

## ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

Sign of the Cross

TEACHER/LEADER: (As the first candle is lit) In our winter darkness our Advent candle lights the way. God is with us as we light our candle. We know that God is with us at all times. We know that God is with us in the brightness of the summer and the freshness of the spring. We know that God is with us in the golden colours of autumn. We know that God is with us now this winter.

We pray:

RESPONSE: God protect us

### Child 1

Our days have become shorter. Response

### Child 2

Our nights have drawn in. Response

### Child 3

Our night skies are brightened by the stars. Response

### Child 4

We watch the wonder of the dark outside. Response

### Child 5

We remember those who fear the dark. We remember those who are lonely at night. We ask that God may be with them in a special way this winter as we pray together .

ALL: Our Father.....

HYMN:

Grow in Love P6, Fourth class, page 157- O Come , O Come Emmanuel

Come to the Manger, Alive O page 151

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12 When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too." The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They

were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

## 5 BLESSING OF THE JESSE TREE AND ADVENT WREATH

### **Child 6**

God, Our Father, this Jesse Tree reminds us of our family tree which takes us back a long way, back as far as we can go in the story of our family. This Jesse Tree reminds us that Joseph and Mary were of the house of David. It reminds us that the roots of our Christian story, our Christian family tree, go back down into the story of the Jewish people and their covenant of love with God in the Old Testament. It reminds us of how long generations of people waited for the coming of Jesus. Now he is coming anew, this Christmas, and we must be awake so that we will not miss him when he comes. It reminds us of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. Bless this Jesse Tree, which we will decorate in the weeks ahead, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus. Amen **Child 7**

God, Our Father, when we look at our Advent Wreath we see its evergreen leaves. They remind us that, through the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through our baptism in Christ, we have a path to the tree of life and to everlasting life with God who loves us. Each week as we light the different coloured candles we remember that you are the light of the world, especially at this, the darkest time of the year.

Bless our Advent wreath and bless us as we journey through Advent.

May your light guide us on our way. Amen

### TEACHER/LEADER:

Bless all of us in this class/school as we journey together through Advent, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of your Son, Jesus.

Amen

### HYMN:

(Hymn of own choosing )