



Date: Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Value: Service	Leader: JWS
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Key message that the children need to take away
<b>Values: Compassion</b>
<b>Theme: Christmas</b>

Gathering	<p>Music on entry. Children enter quietly</p> <p>Class children to bring up to the worship table and say together:  Bible – God the Father  Cross – God the Son  Candle – God the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Candle is lit on the worship table  All: Come to us Father, as we gather here today;  Be with us Jesus, in our worship  Stay with us Holy Spirit, now and always, Amen.</p>	<p>Image on display as children enter:</p>  <p><a href="#">Peace of God Children's Melodies: Piano Music, Meditation Music, Worship Music, Prayer Music - YouTube</a></p>
Engaging	<p>The calendar year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> January but for the Church , it's new year starts on Advent Sunday (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas).</p> <p>What does Advent mean? It means coming</p> <p>It is the time when the Church prepares for the coming of Jesus which is celebrated at Christmas.</p> <p>How many of the children have advent calendars? Which door have you opened today?  What is coming?</p> <p>After the waiting of advent, Christmas comes with joy and celebration on December 25<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>We are going to listen to a part of the Christmas story in the Bible. It takes place just after Jesus has been born and it is still dark.</p>	

	<div data-bbox="1360 184 1421 237" data-label="Image"></div> <p><b>CHRISTMAS STORY</b> <i>THE SHEPHERDS HEAR ABOUT JESUS</i></p> <p>There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”</p> <p>Suddenly a great army of heaven’s angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”</p> <p>When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.”</p> <p>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Luke 2.8-20</i></p>
Learning	<p>The angels came to tell the birth of the Saviour of the World.</p> <p>Where did they say that he would be found?</p> <p>Do you think this is where you might expect to find the Saviour of the World?</p> <p>Where might you expect him to be born?</p> <p>The angels came to tell the birth of the Saviour of the World.</p> <p>Who did they tell?</p> <p>In those days, shepherds had a very ordinary job.</p> <p>Are these people who you would expect to be the first ones told about the birth of the Saviour of the World?</p> <p>Who might you expect to be told first?</p>
Reflecting	<p>One of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means ‘God with us.’ Jesus was sent by God the father to come among us in a most unexpected way.</p>

	<p>He was not born into an important family but to an ordinary mother; he was not laid in a beautiful crib in a royal palace but in a feeding trough for animals; the announcement of his birth was not made to kings and world leaders but to poor shepherds on a dark hillside in the middle of the night.</p> <p>Almighty God sent His son into the World to offer love and compassion to ordinary, everyday people in ordinary, everyday places.</p>
Responding	<p>Prayer</p> <p>God of compassion,</p> <p>You came among us in a way people didn't expect.</p> <p>You came to us in Jesus.</p> <p>God of compassion,</p> <p>You came among us in a way people didn't expect.</p> <p>You come to us where we are.</p> <p>Help us recognise you among us and welcome you afresh this Christmas.</p> <p>Amen</p>
Sending Out	<p>Sending out prayer at the extinguishing of the candle</p> <p>Pupil: Known by Jesus and loved by Jesus, we go on our way,</p> <p>All: Carrying his love inside us through the day. Amen</p> <p><b>SHILL:</b> Pupil/Leader: For the body is not one member but many.</p> <p>All: So today we will grow together and learn together.</p> <p>Music is played</p>
Hymn	<p><a href="#">While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (Weekly Hymn Project - Christmas Hymns) - YouTube</a></p>
Class follow-up	<p>Read the story of the first Christmas or use: <a href="#">The Christian Story of the First Christmas - BBC Teach</a></p> 

	<p>Luke 2.8-20</p> <p>Look at the picture of the shepherds hearing about the birth of Jesus.</p> <p>What do you think the shepherds are thinking?</p> <p>Are these people who you would expect to be the first ones told about the birth of the Saviour of the World?</p> <p>Who might you expect to be told first? Why?</p>
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