



Collective Worship 11 Advent

All the Collective Worship emails so far can be found on our website

http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/education/school_staff/teachers/collective_worship/

The Worship – Major themes ‘IN’ and ‘OUT’.

Music on Entry

Henryk Gorecki – Miserere.

Start the worship with a Christian Greeting

e.g. Lighting a Candle and saying “The Lord be with you.” “*And also with you.*”

There may be singing

Hope of Heaven – A Cracking Christmas – Out of the Ark Music

<http://www.outoftheark.co.uk/products/seasonal-songbooks/a-cracking-christmas.html>

The Worship

A full version of this idea can be found at http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/023p_advent.php

Preparation before hand, collect a selection of candles - different sizes and shapes.

Have some special candles (birthday, baptism etc) and an Advent candle.

Put the candles out on display unlit.

Talk about how candles have become very popular in recent times.

How many presents last year were candles?

How many have stayed in their boxes?

or Do you come from a house where candles are used a lot?

Sometimes people have candles in their home because they like the shape, or colour - they are used for decoration.

Sometimes people choose candles for their smell – to hide the smell of cooking or socks!

Ask the children if they can think of any other reason why people might buy candles.

Look out for ideas that focus on candles to provide 'light',

e.g. in the event of a power cut; candles to celebrate special times or events.

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Talk about the special candles you have on display and talk about the candle you light at the start of school worship.

Ask the children to close their eyes and to sit very still.

During this brief moment, light an Advent candle. When the children open their eyes, ask them if they know what kind of candle it is and what it is for.

Establish the following:

- the candle is sold in shops so that people can 'count down to Christmas' - it has 25 sections and it is called an Advent candle.
- shops also sell Advent calendars with 25 doors or windows.
- for Christians the season of Advent is a time for looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas.
- for Christians, Advent is an exciting time with all the preparations for Christmas Day.
- although there is a lot of preparation to do, buying presents, sending cards, shopping for food, for Christians Advent is also about preparing to celebrate a very special event - the birth of a special baby.
- Advent means 'coming' and Christians remember how everything was prepared for the coming of Jesus into the world.
- Some people like to think of advent as a time of getting ready.
- Advent also starts in the darkest time of year - it usually begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts till the bells ring in the Christmas festival at midnight on Christmas Eve.
- Christians think of Jesus as 'the light of the world' and the candle reminds them that for Christians the coming of Jesus 'turns darkness into light'.

Prayer

"Thank you for the Advent candle which reminds us, in the dark days of the year, to think about Jesus coming into the world to bring light, joy and peace."

At the end of the prayer, extinguish the Advent candle and ask if it can be lit each day in worship until school breaks up for Christmas.

Leaving the hall

A few final thoughts to take away:

Jesus is coming and that is exciting, Christmas is exciting.

We need to get ready, so think carefully how we should be getting ready for someone as special as Jesus.

And remember that the answer isn't really about a Father Christmas and presents – so what can it be?

"The Lord be with you." *"And also with you."*

Optional evaluation using '4' questions with a small group of children.

1. Tell me one thing you liked about the Collective Worship you have just been in?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
2. Tell me one thing that would have made it better for you?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
3. Tell me what it was about?
 - a. This is about factual recall.
4. Tell me why did the person leading the worship do what they did? (How you phrase this depends on the age of the pupils)
 - a. So what was the point?
 - b. What do you take away?
 - c. What do we learn about how we live our lives?

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