

THE SEASON OF ADVENT.

Today marks the first Sunday of Advent and our sermons leading up to the Birth of Jesus will help us journey to Bethlehem.

For centuries Christians throughout the world prepare themselves spiritually for Christmas. *Advent* comes from the Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival."

Today is the 4th Sunday before Christmas—The First Advent—Jesus' birth and we longingly anticipate the Second Advent—Jesus' return.

Therefore Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation—a glorious gift is coming soon and we want to be ready to receive it.

John's Gospel tells us in 1:14- "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

God could have come down to earth as a Super Hero, invincible and strong. But instead, He chose to be born in a man of utmost compassion and love. Jesus faced all that each one of us face. He has shared not only the strength of our human nature but also every weakness we experience—except sin.

As you anticipate the weeks leading up to Christmas, have a think about what hopes and expectations you have.



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR ADVENT

1st Sunday of Advent 28th November Theme—The Coming of the Son of Man

2nd Sunday of Advent 5th December Theme —Preparing the Way for the Kingdom of God.

3rd Sunday of Advent 12th December Theme —Repentance and Baptism in the name of Jesus.

4th Sunday of Advent 19th December Theme —Mary's Boy Child, the Promised Ruler of Bethlehem.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

Friday Christmas Eve Service 24th December .

All invited for this special Family service with light supper provided. Time: 6-7.30pm.

Children are especially invited to participate in the Nativity Story.

Saturday Christmas Day Service 25th December Celebrating the Royal Birth. Short service 9-9.30am.

1st Sunday after Christmas 26th December Theme—Chosen Home

Big Breakfast, Food Pantry and Wash/dry laundry still operating throughout the Christmas/New Year Season.

Community Christmas Breakfast—Wednesday 22nd 7-10am.

If you or someone you know needs a Christmas Lunch and/or food hamper, please contact Kay, our Secretary on 03 9773 0301 to choose the menu and make a time to collect.

