

Children and family talk for 29nd November 2020.

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.
Let's begin by talking to God:

Lord of the morning and evening, Lord of sun and cloud, Lord of light and darkness, I come to you now to hear your words and to worship you. Help me to listen, understand and remember.

Amen

Today is the first Sunday in Advent so we are going to light a candle. Advent is the season of waiting. Today's candle is a candle of hope. We have the hope of good things to come, the hope of Jesus coming down into the world and lighting up our lives. And so, we light this candle of Hope.

Our Bible reading today is from Mark 13.24-37

There are actions for you to do for each part:

Keep watching – everyone jumps up and looks around.

The Son of Man will come – everyone throws their arms open.

He'll gather his chosen people – pretend to gather in people.

New shoots growing on the trees – use your hands to pretend to be a tree growing.

My words will last for ever – twirl your hands forward in front of you.

Imagine a man going on a trip – wave.

They don't know when he's coming back – shrug your shoulders.

Awake – stand to attention.

Asleep – pretend to be asleep.

Keep watching,' said Jesus. 'Nobody knows when the Son of Man will come back to earth. Not even the angels, or the Son. The Father knows, though, and he will send clues.

'Keep watching. There will be days of suffering; after that the sun will be darkened; the moon will stop shining; stars will fall and the powers in heaven will be shaken. Then the Son of Man will come in the clouds. He'll gather his chosen people from everywhere on earth.

'Keep watching,' Jesus said. 'I'm telling you all this so you'll be ready. When you see new shoots growing on the trees, you know summer is coming. When you see the things I've described, you'll know that the Son of Man is coming. Heaven and earth will come to an end, but my words will last for ever.

'Keep watching. Be ready. Imagine a man going on a trip and leaving his servants in charge of his house. They don't know when he's coming back, but they know when he gets home he'll want something to eat and expect the house to be in order. The doorkeeper will have

to stay awake because the man may return in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows in the morning. If the servants doze off, he'll come home and find them asleep.

'That's why I say keep watching,' Jesus repeated. 'Keep awake.'

Let's praise God now as we sing:

Here I am to worship (Light of the world)

SOF 1419 MP 1086

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Well, I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
Well, I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Let's talk some more about the bible reading:

This week we enter into a time of waiting – but what are we waiting for? Christmas? Yes, we are waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus – his birthday! And we start this waiting four weeks before Christmas. Have you made plans for celebrating Christmas? Perhaps you've already got some decorations up or have bought some presents for friends or relations. I am going to put an advent candle in my window every day! But this is not all we are waiting for. In our bible reading Jesus talks about being ready. He wasn't talking about his birthday! Jesus was talking about when he comes again. He says we must all be ready for when the Son of Man comes. He says all sorts of things will happen as signs and we must be on the look out and not fall asleep. That doesn't mean we can never sleep again! What he means is we shouldn't forget about Jesus' second coming, when God will gather all the chosen people. As Christians, we are part of God's chosen people and will be a part of God's new kingdom when Jesus comes again. We can make sure we are ready by reading the bible, talking to God and letting others know about Jesus.

Praying together

Dear God, you are the light in our darkness and the hope for the future. Be with us now as we start a new week. Amen.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21513/29-nov-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>