

Children and family talk for 12th December 2021

Good morning, its lovely to have you with me as we praise God and learn more from the Bible together. This week is the third Sunday in Advent. Today the children at Christ Church in Rayleigh, will be taking the service in the form of a nativity. This is not being broadcast live, which is why I am recording this short children's talk. And today we will be doing one of the cooking activities from your advent box.

But first, our reading today is from Luke 2, verses 1 to 7.

Jesus is born

2 At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. **2** This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

4 So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. **5** Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) **6** While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. **7** She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

Now let's sing this lovely carol, which the children will be singing in the nativity this morning; **Away in a manger.**

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing
The baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love You, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky

And stay by my side
Until morning is night

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask You to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Your tender care
And fit us for Heaven
To live with You there

Copyright: Author (attributed to): Martin Luther; Author (st. 1-2): Anonymous (1885); Author (v. 3, attr.): John T. McFarland (1892)
Published in 496 hymnals
CCLI license number 63352

I'm going to show you how to make some owl rock cakes from the recipe in your advent box.

You will need:

- 225g/8oz self-raising flour
- 75g/2 ½ oz castor sugar
- 1tsp of baking powder
- 125g/4 ½ oz unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 150g/5 ½ oz dried fruit
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp milk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- Glace cherries and raisins (for eyes) or other fruit
- Almond (for beak) or other fruit or nut

What to do:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a baking tray with baking parchment
2. Mix the flour, sugar and baking powder in a bowl and rub in the cubed butter until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs, then mix in the dried fruit.
3. In a clean bowl, beat the egg and milk together with the vanilla extract.
4. Add the egg mixture to the dried ingredients and stir with a spoon until the mixture just comes together as a thick, lumpy dough. Add a teaspoon more milk if you need it to make the mixture stick together.
5. Place golfball-sized spoons of the mixture onto the prepared baking tray. Leave space between them as they will flatten and spread out to double their size during baking. Use fruit and nuts to decorate the mixture to make it look like owls faces.
6. Bake for 15-20 minutes, until golden brown. Allow to cool for a couple of minutes, then turn them out onto a wire rack to cool.

Owls often make their nests in barns and stables. What other birds do you think might have been in the stable when Jesus was born?

Who do you identify with in the story today? Consider the sheep who were left behind, the camels who carried the load, the cow who gave up their bed and the donkey who helped Mary to get where she needed to be. Who do they remind you of today? What is your role in Christmas this year? As you consider the birth of Jesus Christ, how are you going to respond?

Let's talk to God now;

God you know me and you know everyone around me. You know when we are busy and when we are quiet. You know when we are anxious and when we are excited. You know when we feel left out and when we feel included. Thankyou for caring about each one of us, no matter who we are or how we feel, and for hearing and answering our prayers.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Below is the link for the advent box.

[Come & See Advent box \(urc.org.uk\)](http://urc.org.uk)