

Children and family talk for 19th 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 fourth Sunday in Advent. Today we will be looking at one of the activities from our Advent box.

But first, our reading today is from Luke 2, verses 8-20.

Some Shepherds Hear About Jesus

⁸ That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. ⁹ An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. ¹⁰ The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. ¹¹ Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. ¹² This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box."

¹³ Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

¹⁴ "Give glory to God in heaven,
and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God."^[a]

¹⁵ Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."

¹⁶ So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. ¹⁷ And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. ²⁰ Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

Now let's sing this lovely traditional carol; **While Shepherds watched their flocks by night**

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| 1. While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around. | "Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind. |
| 2. "Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind; | 3. "To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign: |

4. "The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God on high,
Who thus addressed their song:

6. "All glory be to God on high,
And to the Earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav'n to
men
Begin and never cease!"

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The Shepherds in our story were surprised by the angels and I'm going to show you a surprising prayer idea.

You will need:

- A matchbox or small box
- Four long strips of paper, slightly narrower than the box
- Glue
- A small heart shape piece of paper
- A pen or pencil

What to do:

1. Think about people who you want to share God's love with.
2. Write your prayers on the strips of paper or draw pictures of the people you would like to pray for.
3. The strips of paper are going to make a spring so your prayers will pop up. Glue the strips of paper together to make two longer strips out of the four strips.
4. Glue these two strips at a 90 degree angle, then start folding them, one on top of the other, also at 90 degrees.
5. When you have completed the folding, stick the ends together.
6. Use your cut-out heart shape and write on it the word 'Amen'. Stick this to the end of your paper spring.
7. Stick the spring into the bottom of the box and press it down and close the box
8. Hold the box in your hand and watch as your prayers spring out! Be ready to say Amen!

Why do you think God chose the Shepherds to be the first to go and see Jesus? The Shepherds left their sheep and went, Jesus asked fishermen to leave their nets and follow him. What things do we need to leave to be able to follow Jesus today? The shepherds

went out and told everyone what they had seen Who are you going to share the good news of Christmas with?

Let's talk to God now;

Let us be happy and excited, just like the shepherds, for god has blessed us.

Let us sing praises to God, Like the angels, for God loves us.

Let us be glad, like Mary and Joseph for God has come to us in the baby Jesus.

Let us jump for Joy!

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)