



ADVENT 2021

*Resources and Ideas
for In-person or Blended
All Age Worship*

This following material has been prepared for use in conjunction with a set of Service of the Word liturgies for the season of Advent 2021, as a collaboration between the Liturgical Advisory Committee and the Children's Ministry Network. The liturgies and supplementary material have been developed in a 'pandemic conscious' manner: conscious that there may still be a mixture of in-person and online worship taking place, conscious that services may be taking place at different times and in smaller groups, and conscious that all-age or family services may be taking place at a different time or in a different format than the principal Sunday service.

To that end, the services, reflections and experiential prayer ideas being offered are shaped largely around the Second Service lectionary readings, in some cases shortened, and re-ordered to allow for a chronological reading though portions of St Luke. For each service, a theme has been identified based on the readings:

- Advent 1: 'Wonder',**
- Advent 2: 'Let Go',**
- Advent 3: 'Take Heart',**
- Advent 4: 'Hope'**

ADVENT 1

Wonder

Joel 3:15-17; Psalm 9:1-2, 16-18; John 3:1-17

To prepare in advance: A feather for each person or family, colour pens and paper

Gathering of God's People

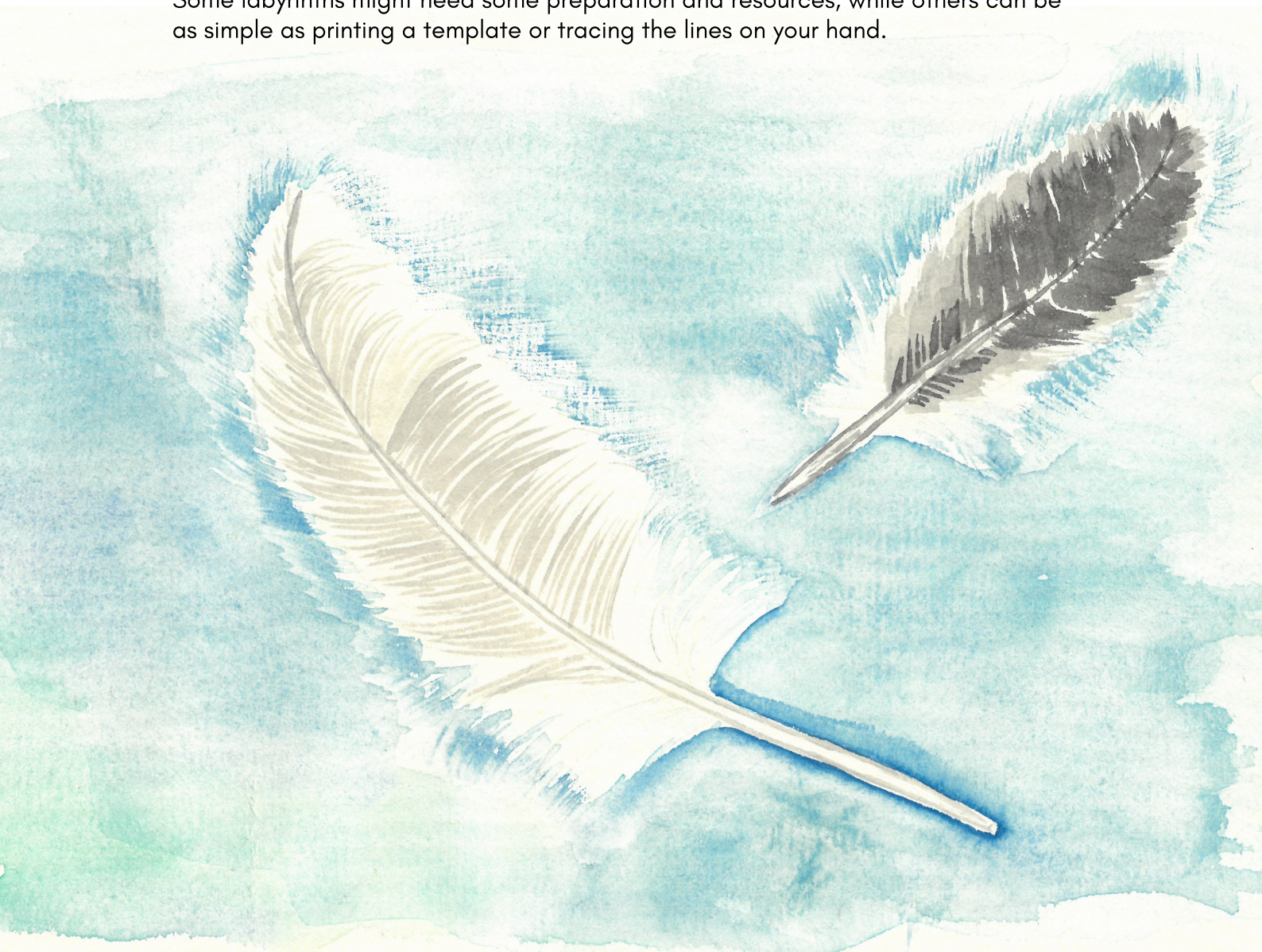
As you gather together, show some pictures things that bring wonder to our world.
<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/wonder-slideshow-for-advent-service/>

Reflection

Use a feather as a starting point to encourage a sense of wonder
<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/wonder-reflection-for-advent-service/>

Prayers of the People

As a creative response to wonder, you may wish to use a finger labyrinth to reflect on a majestic God who journeys with us. You can find an example and links here:
<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/wonder-prayers-labyrinths/>
Some labyrinths might need some preparation and resources, while others can be as simple as printing a template or tracing the lines on your hand.



ADVENT 2

Letting Go

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 75:1-3, Luke 1:5-17

To prepare in advance: Small stones, fallen autumn leaves for each person/family, colour paper

Penitence

Under the theme of 'Letting Go', you might like to use a physical object, such as a small stone, for each person to represent his or her confession.

Reflection

Use the life cycle of a leaf as the starting point for theological reflection together:
<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/letting-go-reflection/>

Prayers of the People

Depending on your context and physical set-up, you might consider one of the following forms of experiential prayer:

Paper Plane Prayers

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/letting-go-prayers-paper-planes/>

Open and Closed Hands

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/letting-go-prayers-advent-2/>



ADVENT 3

Take Heart

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 50:1-6, Luke 1:26-45

To prepare in advance: Small stones and marker pens

Reflection

Bringing all our feelings, and our fears, to God

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/advent-week-3-take-heart-reflection/>

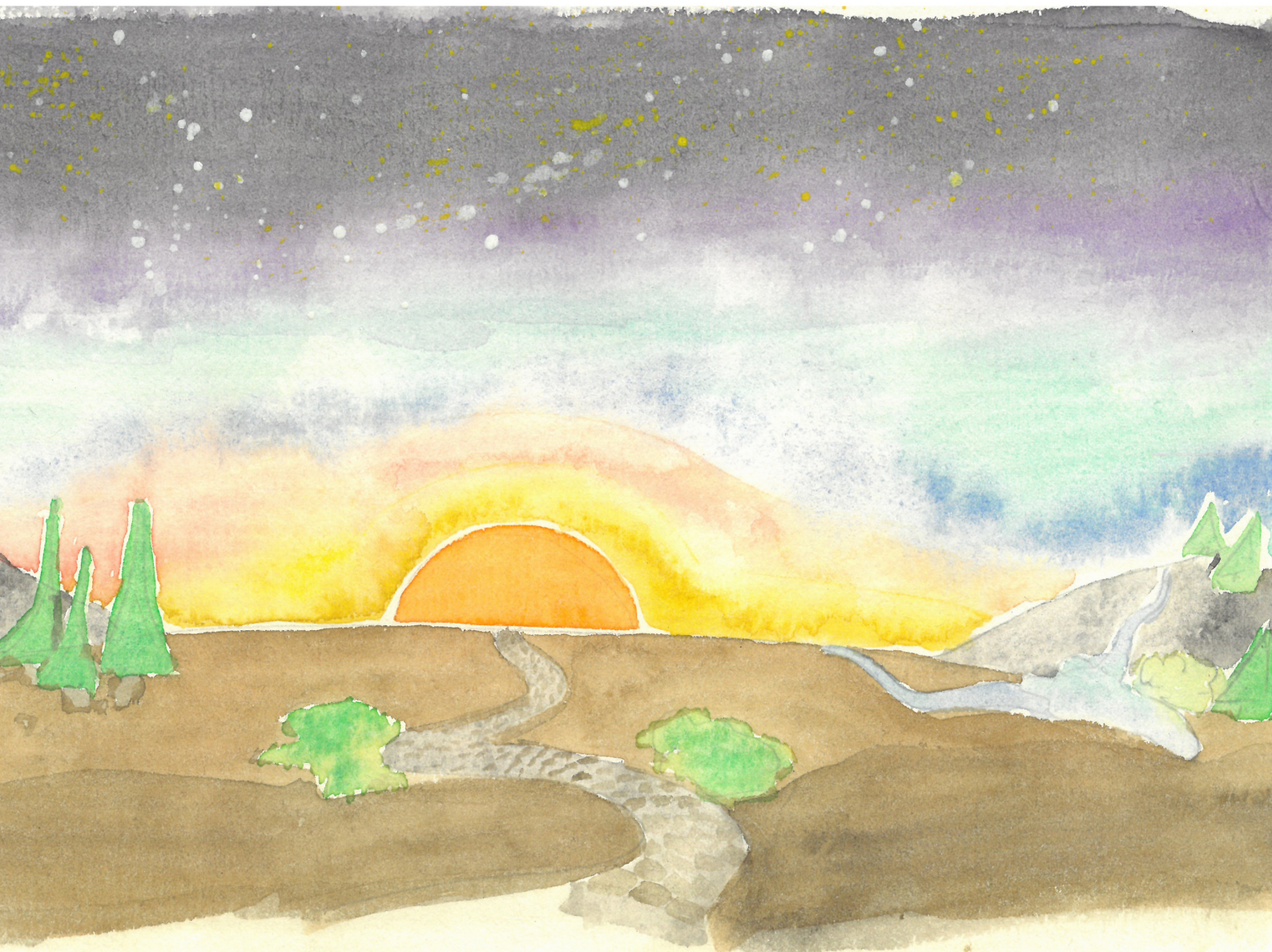
Prayers of the People

Advent Journey Prayers

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/advent-service-3-take-heart-prayer-activity-1/>

Take Heart Reflection Prayers

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/advent-service-3-take-heart-prayer-activity-2/>



ADVENT 4

Hope

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 50:1-6, Luke 1:46-55

To prepare in advance: Paper, scissors, marker pens, clothes pegs, twine or heavy string

Reflection

Moving from impossible to hope:

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/advent-service-4-hope-a-reflection/>

Prayers of the People

Make paper dove prayers of hope to add to the Christmas tree

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/advent-service-4-hope-creative-prayer/>

Prayer knots as a reminder to hold on to hope

<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/advent-4-thy-kingdom-come-hope-prayer/>

