**First Sunday of Advent: Ancient truths, modern times**

**Creative Prayer Ideas**

* **Deck the Hall**

Have a box of baubles next to your corps Christmas tree. During a time of reflection encourage the congregation to come forward to hang a bauble on the tree. This is to recognise the beginning of Advent and to start preparing their hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

* **Journey of Faith**

Take some time to reflect on your faith journey. Think of or draw a timeline identifying the key transformational moments. The moments may include times when God may have comforted you through tough situations, or when you first came to faith. End this reflection time with a prayer for God to continue revealing something new in your life during this Advent season.

* **Prayer Wreath**

Give each person a wooden clothes peg. Using permanent markers, people can write on them situations, names or countries they would like to pray for God’s comfort to surround this Advent season. Pre-cut a thin cardboard circle with a hole in the centre, or you can use a thin circular piece of wood to form the skeleton of the wreath. People can then come and attach their prayers around the circle to form a wreath.

## Creative Worship Ideas

* **Old Becomes New**

Project on the screen a series of images of old (historical) objects and the modern versions – for example, an iron, toaster or washing machine. People can try to guess what the old object is before revealing the modern version. The purpose of the object has remained the same even though the way it looks or works has changed. In the Christmas story, although it is an ancient story, the truths remain the same and a key part of our Christian calendar.

* **‘Comfort and Joy’, British Sign Language**

Learn the phrase ‘[comfort](https://www.signbsl.com/sign/comfort) and [joy](https://www.signbsl.com/sign/joy)’ in sign language as a congregation. This Advent, while singing or listening to ‘God rest ye merry, gentlemen’, use sign language whenever the line ‘comfort and joy’ is sung or played. The message of God’s comfort and joy is available to everyone.

* **‘Comfort’ Bible Verses**

Encourage people to spend time with each other in small groups, or open up your worship time, for people to share different verses of Scripture which have brought them comfort. This may inspire others to find or have a Bible verse to repeat each day of Advent.