

**This Week's Worship: Advent 4 Love**

**Opening**

Wherever we come together,  
**God is with us.**  
**God is here.**

We come together to say sorry  
We come together to say Thank you  
We come together to ask for God's help  
We come together to hear God's story  
We come together to celebrate God's love.

Wherever we come together,  
**God is with us.**  
**God is here.**

**We light our Advent candle for this week**

**Saying Sorry**

*Hold onto a stone and think about things that you have done this week you would like to say sorry for.*

God loves us and forgives us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.  
For times this week when we have made others sad.  
**We are sorry.**

For times this week when we have not helped others  
**We are sorry.**

For times this week when we have not looked after your creation,  
**We are sorry**

For times this week when we have been selfish  
**We are sorry**

*Put the stone in a bowl of water*

As we leave these things behind, may God forgive us and give us a new, clean start today.  
**Amen**

**Saying thank you**

*To join in you will need: some slips of paper, some pens and an empty jam jar (you can join in without this for the first few weeks but can then join in when you have had the time to put some things in the jar!) Ask each person to draw or write down on one of the slips something they would like to say thank you for and put it in the jar. As we pray, pull a slip out of the jar and say thank you for what is written on it. Continue to fill the jar during the week.*

God, you are amazing and you have given us good things. We thank you for all your gifts to us.  
Thank you for...  
Amen

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...

Amen

*Continue until everyone has had a chance to say something.*

### **Story and response**

Listen to this week's story or read a story from the Bible. This week's story is from Luke 1:27-38

I wonder which part of this story you liked the most?

I wonder what surprised you about this story?

I wonder what this story makes you feel?

I wonder where you are in this story?

Do you wonder anything about this story?

### **Prayers**

God loves us so much that he comes to earth as a baby to be with us and show us. God gives Mary the special job of being that baby's mother and she loves God so much that she agrees, even though it must feel really scary for her. God loves us so much that he comes to be with us on earth. Mary loves God so much that she will do something difficult for him. Who do you love? How do you show them that you love them?

You will need: paper, paint, pens or pencils

Put your thumb into some paint and print it onto the paper twice to make a heart shape (see photo). Write underneath it the name of someone you love. Repeat until you can't think of any more people!

**Pray: Jesus, thank you that you loved us so much that you came to be with us on earth. As we wait for you to return, we pray for love and happiness in our lives and our homes. Thank you for all those people we love and who love us. Help us to show love to others. Amen.**

### **Close**

Wherever we come together,

**God is with us.**

**God is here.**

May God bless us.

May we know that we are loved

May we know that we are cared for.

May we know God's hope.

**God is with us**

**God is here**

**Amen.**

*Extinguish the candle.*

