

# An Advent Alphabet

A Collective Worship Series | From the Diocese of Leeds

Our letters and words today are...

C Christmas  
Christ

D Dark  
Dawn

E Everyone



As we remembered in our last worship, the season of Advent is the time when Christians prepare to celebrate **Christmas**.



**Christmas** is one of the most important Christian festivals. In the UK, it is celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> December every year.

# What comes to your mind when you think about Christmas?



**Christmas** stands for '**Christ** – Mass', or the celebration of the **Christ**.

In Bible times, the **Christ** (or Messiah) was the name for the special person sent by God to save the world.



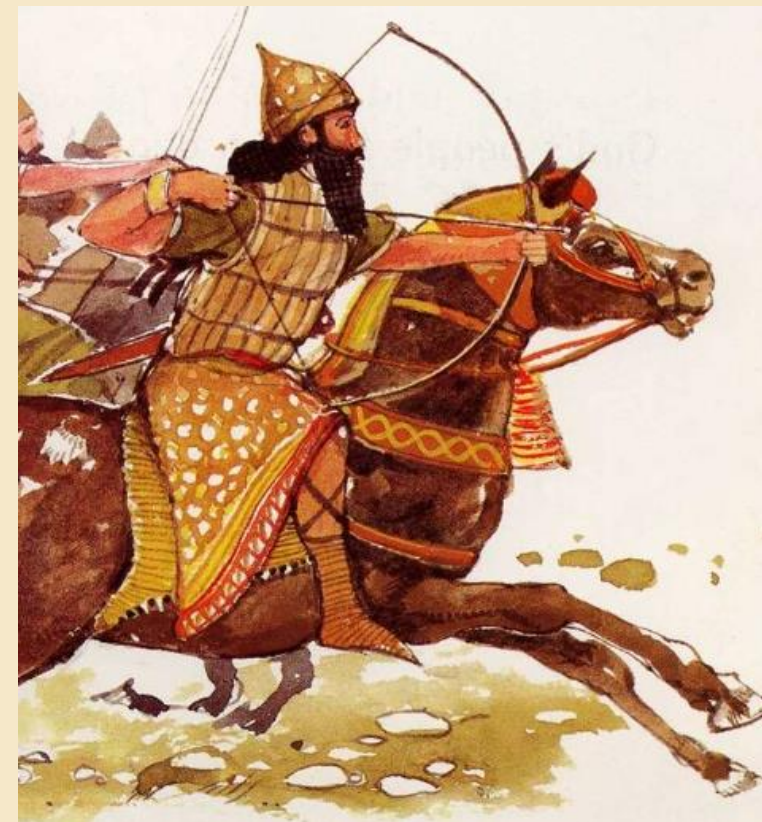
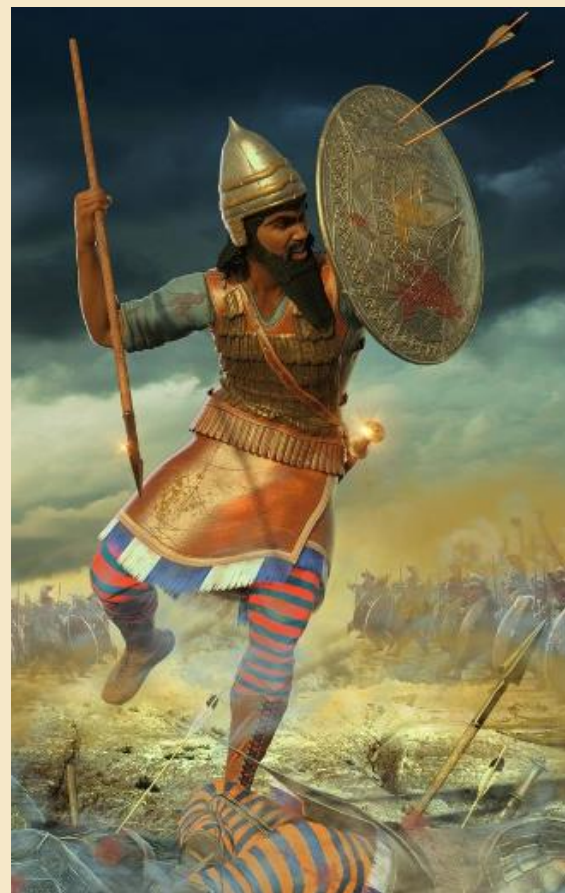
Christians believe that Jesus is the **Christ**. This is why he is called Jesus **Christ**. It is not his surname, but his title as the special one from God.

And it is where the name **Christian** comes from. Christians are people who follow Jesus, the **Christ**.

Before Jesus was born, God's people had been waiting for this special one to come and save them for a very long time, for hundreds and hundreds of years.

And things had not gone well for them.

Their land had been conquered by the Assyrians



Then by the Babylonians

Then again by the Greeks



And finally by the Romans!

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a cloudy sky and bare tree branches. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark blue and black color palette. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the foreground shows the silhouettes of bare tree branches against the dark background.

Under Roman rule, things looked pretty black for them, like the darkest of nights.

Think for a moment, what do you do when everything seems dark, when everything seems to be going wrong? How do you respond?

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forest. The sun is shining brightly from behind the trees, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene with a warm, golden light. The water in the river is dark, reflecting the surrounding trees and the bright light. The trees are dense and their leaves are a mix of green and yellow, suggesting an autumn setting.

No matter how dark things seemed, some of them hung on to the promises God had given them, like this one...

**Isaiah 9<sup>2</sup>**

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."



They trusted that, just as the **dawn** always comes to chase away the **darkness** of night, so God would certainly keep his promises and send someone special to save them, the Messiah or **Christ**.



For Christians, Jesus is this special one from God, the **Christ**.

Jesus' birth, which we remember at **Christmas**, is the new **dawn** for a **dark** world and for **everyone** in it.

Christians believe that Jesus, as the **Christ**, is the light that show **everyone** what God is really like.

He came not just for one nation, or a small group of people. He came to be the saviour of **everyone**, of the whole world.

His birth shows that God keeps his promises and loves the world so much that he sent his son to save it.



# Reflections

## Question 1

Christians believe that Jesus' birth was the fulfilment of God's ancient promises to humanity to send someone to save them.

**Why is it important that God kept these promises? What might it tell us about God?**

## Question 2

At the dark times in life, we are kept going by the hope that the dawn will come, that things will get better.

**What are your hopes that keep you going when things are hard? What else can help you at these times?**

If you would like to join in with these prayers, you can say the words together or join in with the 'AMEN' at the end.

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
You are the light of the world, the dawn after the darkness,  
Help us to walk trusting you and following your path.  
Amen**

## Our Advent Prayer

**God of hope, be with us in our Advent journey  
Guide us as we travel this road together.  
Prepare us to celebrate your gift of love to the world,  
The birth of your own son, Jesus.  
Amen.**



The Diocese of Leeds Education Team produced this resource. For more information about this or future resources, don't hesitate to get in touch with your named adviser or our admin team:

[simone.bennett@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:simone.bennett@leeds.anglican.org)

[darren.dudman@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:darren.dudman@leeds.anglican.org)

[trudi.garratt-ward@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:trudi.garratt-ward@leeds.anglican.org)

[helen.lever@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:helen.lever@leeds.anglican.org)

[lee.talbot@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:lee.talbot@leeds.anglican.org)

[paul.bowlas@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:paul.bowlas@leeds.anglican.org)

[rupert.madeley@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:rupert.madeley@leeds.anglican.org)

[info.ed@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:info.ed@leeds.anglican.org)

