

# Creative Ideas for Children's Worship

*Based on the Sunday Gospels, Year C*

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Morehouse Education Resources  
*A division of Church Publishing Incorporated*

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First published in the UK under the title:  
*Fresh Expressions in the Sacramental Tradition*  
by the Canterbury Press Norwich  
Editorial office, 13–17 Long Lane,  
London, EC1A 9pn, UK

Canterbury Press is an imprint of Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd  
(a registered charity)  
13A Hellesdon Park Road, Norwich,  
Norfolk, NR6 5DR, UK

[www.scm-canterburypress.co.uk](http://www.scm-canterburypress.co.uk)

Sarah Lenton asserts the moral right  
to be identified as the Author of this Work.

First published in the United States in 2013 by  
Morehouse Education Resources  
a division of Church Publishing Incorporated  
Editorial Offices: 600 Grant Street, Suite 630  
Denver, Colorado 80203

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Typeset by Regent Typesetting, London

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
(to come)

*Printed in the United States of America*

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN-13: 978-1-60674-125-2

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# *Script 1 Stay Awake!*

## Advent 1

*Luke 21:25-36*

### THEME

The Christian year begins with Jesus' description of the end of the world. The alarming imagery—stars falling from the sky and so on—never appears to bother children, especially once they realize it's not necessarily going to happen tomorrow. Christmas, however, is another matter. That feast *is* imminent and this session concentrates on Jesus' first coming, rather than His second, with a story about the clueless King Basil.

### SET UP

- The liturgical color is Purple.
- Highlight the change of color in church by wearing some purple—tie, scarf, socks, anything.
- Write out the shopping list on page 3 and put in your pocket.
- Three paper crowns.
- A small Bible, a fourth crown (too small to wear) and a gravestone—see template on CD-Rom crammed into Basil's pockets.
- Insert the text of today's Gospel into Basil's Bible.
- Leader 2 plays King Basil, all other parts can be played by the children.
- A couple of pairs of binoculars, telescopes (toy ones are fine), opera glasses, anything a star gazer might look through.
- Star puppet, made from the CD-Rom template.
- Optional Advent Wreath.



An Advent Wreath helps define the Sundays in Advent. Traditionally there are three Purple candles (for Sundays 1, 2 and 4), a Pink candle for the cheerful Sunday (number 3) and a White candle in the middle for Christmas Day. There is no Gospel Procession in Advent.

**WELCOME** *the children and lead them in* **The Sign of the Cross** † (p. xxxvi).

**Leader** This week the color has changed in church. Did anyone notice what color the priest was in today? (**Purple.**)

*Pick up on any purple you can see around you.*

What color is my scarf? (**Purple.**)

Yup, the church has gone purple.

When things go purple in church it means we're getting ready for something. Does anyone know what that might be?

*If they don't, pull out your "shopping list."*

I've got a shopping list here. Hmm...

I've got to get a turkey

And some wrapping paper

And a tree...

What am I getting ready for? (**Christmas!**)

Exactly, the Church is getting ready to welcome Jesus when He comes as a tiny child on Christmas Day. One way to do that is to ask God to forgive us for the things we've done wrong, we'll do that now.

**THE KYRIE** Lord Jesus, you came to Earth to tell us how much God loves us,  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to Earth to help us say sorry  
Christ have mercy.  
**Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to Earth so our sins could be forgiven  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

*Ask the children to repeat* **The Prayer for Forgiveness** *after you* (p. xxxvi).

**OPENING PRAYER** God our Father  
Thank you for bringing us together.  
Help us to be very wide awake this morning  
And ready for anything. *Amen.*



## OPTIONAL ADVENT WREATH

*Introduce the Advent Wreath if you've got one. Run through the candle colors and help a child light a Purple candle for the first Sunday of Advent.*

## BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Four Kings

*Place four chairs down the front. Leader 1 stands to one side of them, with the props (see below) to hand. Leader 2 shambles off to the back, ready to play King Basil.*

**Leader 1** Right, well this Sunday we're going to hear about a bunch of kings who were also getting ready for Christmas.  
They were...

*As you say each name, choose a child to be a king, give them a crown, and ask them to stand at the front.*

King Caspar  
King Melchior  
King Balthazar, and King...

*Look around* Where is he? Basil!

**Basil** Hullo?

**Leader 1** We want you down here...

**Basil** OK. (*Leader 2 [aka Basil] joins the others*)

**Leader 1** Here he is, King Basil.  
King Basil is a great guy, but kinda forgetful.  
Where's your crown, Basil?

**Basil** Ah, I left it too long in the washing machine...  
(*Pulls very small crown from his pocket.*) It shrank.

**Leader 1** What else have you got in your pocket?

**Basil** Well, I've got a gravestone for one of my favorite knights, he died last week... (*hold it up*) May he rust in peace...  
And, of course (*hold it up*) my Bible.

**Leader 1** Basil never went anywhere without his Bible.  
He didn't read it very often, but he was always meaning to...

*Basil opens the Bible, nearly reads it, decides against it and puts it back in his pocket.*

**Leader 1** Well, he and the other kings were great friends.

*Basil joins the others—slaps their backs or something friendly. The three other kings do what Basil does in the following section.*

They inspected the troops together.

*All four kings stand very straight and look keenly at the audience.*

They waved to the public together.

*They all do a royal hand wave.*

And they went to the movies together. *(They sit down.)*

What's your favorite film, Basil?

**Basil**

“King Kong.”

**Leader 1**

But sometimes they would go outside, climb up as high as they could, and watch the stars together...

*The kings stand on their chairs. Pass them up the binoculars.*

Basil loved watching the stars—but he was completely useless.

He could never remember which end of the telescope to look through and, because you can only watch stars at night, he was always falling asleep.

*Basil sits down on his chair and falls asleep.*

One night the other three kings were very excited, they saw a wonderful new star...

**CD1.2**

**CD1.3**

*Enter kid holding up the star puppet.*

moving across the sky.

*The three kings watch the progress of the star across the room.*

And they jumped down. *(They do.)*

And woke Basil... *(The star goes behind them.)*

“We've seen an amazing new star!” they said. “Look!”

And they pointed up into the sky.

“Where?” said Basil, and he got up. “It's behind you!” they said.

*Run the “look behind you” pantomime joke.*

*Basil appeals to the kids.*

**Basil**

“Can you see the star?” **(YES! It's behind you!)**

*But he never turns around fast enough.*

**Leader 1**

Well, all the kings decided to follow the star.

Caspar ran off to get a backpack. *(Exit Caspar.)*

Melchior ran off to get the passports. *(Exit Melchior.)*

Balthazar ran off to get some camels. *(Exit Balthazar.)*

And Basil agreed to meet them at the camel parking place.

Where's that, Basil?

**Basil**

It's in my royal city—Camelot...

**Leader 1** I should have guessed.  
 Well, Basil looked at his watch, and decided he just had time to have a little nap before the others returned. (*Basil settles down again.*)  
 And he slept, and he slept and he slept.  
 The sun came up—and Basil woke up and looked around. There was nobody there...  
 He rushed over to Camelot.

*Basil runs to the other end of the room.*

Nobody there either. The others had gone.  
 “Rats!” said Basil, “Why do these things always happen to me?”  
 He was so fed up that he hunched his shoulders and put his hands in his pockets and discovered—his Bible. (*Basil does this.*)  
 “Useless book!” he said to himself.  
 “Oh well, I may as well read it. There’s nothing else to do.”  
 And he opened the Bible and began to read...

*Basil walks slowly down the room, reading. He stops suddenly.*

**Basil** Oh no!  
**Leader 1** What’s up?  
**Basil** Look at this—why didn’t I read this before?

*Hands the book over to Leader 1.*

**Leader 1** Basil had found the Gospel for today. Let’s see what it says...  
*Emphasize the “Stay awake!” as you read it.*

*There is no Gospel Procession in Advent, ask someone to bring up the Gospel book.*

### THE GOSPEL *Luke 21:25-36*

Jesus said to His disciples,  
 “There will be signs in the sun and the moon and the stars,  
 people will be frightened and the Heavens will be shaken.  
 When this happens, stay awake, and pray for strength, so that you may be ready for my coming on the clouds of Heaven.”

**Leader 1** So what does Jesus want us to do? (**Stay awake.**)  
 Yup, He wants Christians to be the sort of people who are on the ball, ready for anything. King Basil had better buck up...

*(If you’ve got the time...)*

## GAME

### Keeping Basil Awake...

Leader 2 sits with his back to the children and a crown—any crown, quite a stiff one—behind him. Basil apparently goes to sleep and a child, cued in by Leader 1, tries to sneak up to steal the crown. If Basil hears the kid he points in the direction the child is coming from, and the child has to retreat. Play this game with a view to variety. Let some kids get very close before “hearing” them, and allow some very small children to win.

Practice the message you are going to take back to the grown-ups—“WAKE UP!”

**Leader** To finish we are going to say our Advent Prayer. It’s a very old prayer—and it’s very short:  
Come, Lord Jesus, Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus, Amen.

## BACK IN CHURCH

The children line up down the front.

**Leader** Today the children have come back with a special message for the whole church. (*Turn to the children.*)  
What is it kids?

**Children** WAKE UP!

If for some reason the children don’t shout this at full power, look around at the congregation, shake your head and say to the kids.

**Leader** You know, I don’t think they quite got that. I think we’ll have to tell them again...

**Children** WAKE UP!

Shooting Star template

①



②



(CD1.3)

Sample cartoons for this script

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