

## Posada Candles

*For this particular advent we followed the idea of the Mexican Posada or travelling nativity. The children made giant, and I mean giant child-sized figures of Mary and Joseph out of chicken wire and mud rock (a bit like papier maché). We literally travelled around the community with Mary and Joseph, knocking on doors asking to be let in. They visited the local Congregational church, the primary school, coffee morning and they even put in an appearance at the residents' association lighting of the Christmas Tree event. More bizarrely we strapped them into the car and took them up to Hawkshead Hill Baptist church in the Lake District and got a few strange looks on the motorway!*

*This advent candle lighting liturgy develops the theme of travelling with Mary and Joseph through advent thinking especially of those who have had to leave their homes and travel somewhere unknown.*

### Advent 1

Leave  
Go now!  
Leave everything behind.  
Leave your friends  
Leave your family  
Leave your home  
Leave your possessions.  
Leave  
Go now!

**We light this candle to remember those whose have to leave everything behind**  
**We light this candle to look forward to a time when all will find journey's end**

### Advent 2

Hide  
Be quiet!  
Don't draw attention  
Don't make a fuss  
Don't complain  
Don't let down your guard  
Don't look back  
Hide  
Be quiet!

**We light this candle to remember those whose journey is fearful and unknown**  
**We light this candle to look forward to a time when all will find refuge and sanctuary**

### Advent 3

Rest  
Welcome!  
Come in and eat  
Come in and sleep  
Come in and have a shower

Come in and feel safe  
Come in and make friends  
Rest  
Welcome

**We light this candle to remember those whose journey seems unbearable**  
**We light this candle to look forward to a time when all will find a place of welcome.**

#### **Advent 4**

Keep going  
Almost there!  
Away from your comfort zone  
Away from the familiar  
Away from the everyday  
Away from your security  
Away from everything held dear  
Keep going  
Almost there!

**We light this candle to remember those whose journey seems endless**  
**We light this candle to look forward to a time when all will find journey's end**

#### **Christmas Day**

We're here  
We've arrived!  
Here in a makeshift stable  
Here in a foreign town  
Here among strangers  
Here with shepherds and kings  
Here a baby is born  
We're here  
We've arrived!

**We light this candle to celebrate the arrival of a baby at the journey's end**  
**We light this candle to look forward to a time when all will find their arrival greeted by celebration.**

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