

# When God is a Child

## USPG ADVENT WORSHIP RESOURCE 2009 LEADERS' NOTES



### HOW TO USE THE RESOURCE

*When God is a Child* can be used to accompany your church's lighting of the Advent candles. For the first four weeks we have provided a bible reading, short reflection, prayer and example of the work of the world church that USPG supports. These link to the four verses of *When God is a Child*. Each week, as the relevant candles are lit, you can either sing that week's verse and the refrain, or all verses up to that point.

We are recommending that you sing the whole of *When God is a Child* on Christmas Day as you light the Advent candles. You could accompany this with a PowerPoint slideshow of evocative images from across the Anglican Communion. This can be downloaded from the Advent Resources section of our website – [www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)

Alternatively, you can combine all the elements of the resource to produce one Advent service.

### SYMBOLIC ACTION

Each week, it is possible to link the words of the song to a symbolic activity that can be shared by the congregation. Suggestions for each week are given below. The 'symbols' could be displayed either around the Advent wreath or used to decorate a Christmas tree.

#### *Week One: Hope is a star*

Give each person a star made of silver paper (ensure that at least one side can be written on). Invite people to write down their 'hope for the world' during the coming year.

#### *Week Two: Peace is a ribbon*

Drape a ribbon around the Advent wreath or Christmas tree. Give people small circles of paper, representing the Earth. Invite them to write on the circle the name of a location where prayers for peace are especially needed. Attach the circles to the ribbon.

#### *Week Three: Joy is a song*

Give people a cut-out representing a musical note or clef, etc. Invite them to write on the cut-out something for which they particularly want to give thanks.

#### *Week Four: Love is a flame*

Give people a paper 'flame' and invite them to write on it a commitment or promise they want to make for the coming year.

### Please note

- The words to *When God is a Child* can be photocopied so long as your church has a Church Copyright Licence. The music cannot be photocopied. Extra copies of the music and worship resource booklets can be ordered free of charge by contacting USPG.
- When sending a donation to USPG, please ask your treasurer to quote reference *P18M Advent 09* in correspondence.