# Fourth Sunday of Advent: Goodness revealed

## Creative Prayer Ideas

* **Light in the darkness**

Spend some time in prayer. Encourage people to come forward and light a tealight to rejoice in the love and comfort of God in your life, and pray that he will set your life on fire.

* **Come Into Our World**

Play the video for the song ['Come Into Our World'](https://vimeo.com/477973842?share=copy) by Joy Webb:
<https://vimeo.com/477973842?share=copy> as an opening to worship or as part of a prayer time. While listening to the powerful words, pray for the troubles facing our world today. The Ukraine war and other conflict areas, COVID-19, famine, the climate crisis …. When the video ends, ask members of the congregation to call out to God in prayer asking him to ‘come into our world’ to bring comfort and joy.

* **World Prayer**

Use a map of the world and paper hearts. Give people the opportunity to come forward and place a paper heart on areas and situations around the world that need God’s comfort.

* **I am the Lord’s Servant**

Use gift tags for people to write ‘I am the Lord’s servant’ on, and attach or place them in a manger or on an open Bible. Give this time for people to sacrifice their lives to God the same way Mary did.

## Creative Worship Ideas

* **Good or Bad**

Have three trays covered by a towel so no one can see what is underneath. Ask the congregation to predict whether what is underneath is a good thing or a bad thing. Under the first one put some sweets. You may get a mixed reaction here as some people may not like sweets and others may love them. On the second tray, have a pot of Marmite. Marmite has the famous slogan, ‘You either love it or hate it’. There may be a similar reaction with your corps. On the final tray have a Nativity scene. When Jesus came to earth, true goodness was revealed.

* **Christmas adverts**

Discuss with each other your favourite Christmas advert and say why. If you were directing an advert for the Nativity story, who would you cast? Where would you film? What song would you have in the background?

* **Christmas Stocking**

Put an object in a Christmas stocking – allow people to come and feel to

see if they can guess what’s inside without looking! Repeat this a few times with different objects. Objects may include different Christmas items such as a bauble or some tinsel. When putting your hand inside the stocking, you’re not sure what it might be. Putting your trust in God might feel the same sometimes. However, God wants to live life *with* us and we can always rely on God to reveal goodness.