

Children's liturgy – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: purple

Props: coloured card, pens and pencils

Song suggestions: Love is his word, love is his way (803, Laudate)
The Servant King (749, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about how much God loves the world and all the people in it. Let's think some more about that love.

Opening prayer: Generous God, we give you thanks because you loved the world so much you sent your only Son to show us how to live. May we share your love with others. Amen.

First reading (optional): 2 Chronicles 36:14-16

Psalm: Psalm 136 R. v.6

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. For Lent we use an acclamation that doesn't use the word 'Alleluia'. We suggest: Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.*

Gospel: John 3:14-21

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.

Those who believe in the Son are not judged; but those who do not believe have already been judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. This is how the judgment works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil. Those who do evil things hate the light and will not come to the light, because they do not want their evil deeds to be shown up. But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that reading?

In today's gospel reading we hear that God loved the world so much that he gave us Jesus to show us how to live and to help bring us closer to God.

How does it make you feel to know that God loves us all so much that he was willing to send his only son, Jesus, to be with us here on earth, and to die for us?

Can you tell me two people who love you? And two people that you love? What does it mean to love someone? How should we treat someone that we love?

God does not just love you or me, God loves everybody. God loves all people whether they are rich or poor, no matter where they live or where they come from, no matter whether they are healthy or ill, no matter the colour of their skin. We are all God's children. We are part of one global family.

God asks us to share this love and to also care for others no matter who they are or where in the world they live. God calls us to care for our global family and to share generously with them all that we have been given. When we do this we are sharing God's love.

Throughout Lent, lots of people are raising money for a charity called CAFOD, by walking a very long way over the 40 days of Lent. This money will help to fight global poverty, supporting people who are poor around the world to live the life they want to.

How do you think those who are taking part in the Big Lent Walk might be sharing God's love with others?

How do you think you could share God's love with others over the coming week?

Intercessions: We think about our brothers and sisters around the world as we pray:

We pray for the Church: that through God's grace it may be a place of welcome and love for all people no matter who they are or where they come from. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are finding life hard because of poverty or illness: that they may find comfort in God's love and the love of those around them. Lord, in your mercy...

Today on Mothering Sunday, we pray for our mothers, and all those who care for us. May we always show them love and be helpful and kind. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, show us how to reach out to others around the world in love and to support them to build a better future, free from poverty. Amen.

Activity suggestions: Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to draw or write how we can spread love all round the world.

Cut heart shapes out of card and encourage the children to write a prayer saying thank you for the love that they receive in their lives. Invite them to pray these at home together with their family during the week and to think of all people around the world in our global family who are also loved by God.

Or, on the heart shapes encourage the children to write or draw a special message of love for their mothers or another special person who cares for them. You could start them off by writing "Love is when you..." on one piece of card/paper and photocopying to the others.

Remind the children to tell the people at home all that they have heard and thought about in today's liturgy. Encourage them to share God's love through their actions in the coming week.

Find out more about how to get involved with the Big Lent Walk at cafod.org.uk/walk

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

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