

Children's liturgy – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Welcome: Today we hear about how God takes care of us no matter who we are. We are reminded that God is with us in every part of our lives so we should not be afraid.

Song suggestion: He's got the whole world in his hands (973, Laudate)

Opening prayer: God of all, you watch over us all with so much care. Help us to feel that you are near in all that we do. Help us to remember that everyone is precious in your sight. Amen.

First reading (optional): Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalm: Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the gospel acclamation together.*

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus said: "So do not be afraid of people. Whatever is now covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. What I am telling you in the dark you must repeat in broad daylight, and what you have heard in private you must announce from the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!

"For those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same before my Father in heaven. But if anyone rejects me publicly, I will reject him before my Father in heaven."

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus' friends are afraid and don't know what to do. They feel that they aren't very important and that God may not look after them.

Jesus looks at the world around him and sees that God is watching over everything, even tiny birds like sparrows. Have you ever seen sparrows? What do they look like?

When you look at the world, what else can you see that might remind you of God's love for us all?

Jesus tells his friends that they are worth more than many sparrows. If we ever feel afraid, we can remember those sparrows in the gospel, or some of the other things we have mentioned, and be reminded that God loves us even more.

Jesus says that, because God is looking after them, his friends need not be afraid to speak up and tell everybody about Jesus and the things he said.

Can you remember some of the things Jesus said, that it would be good for us to tell other people? He said we should try to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Anything else?

In our country, there are not so many sparrows as there used to be a few years ago. We are starting to realise that we need to look after them and to protect the places where they live.

Around the world, lots of the birds and animals and plants that remind us of God also need us to care for them.

We all need help sometimes, we cannot do everything on our own.

The local people that CAFOD works with around the world are there helping make sure that the people in their community have the food that they need and the tools and seeds to grow their own. They support people to have clean water, to know their rights and to change their lives for the better.

God loves us all and so we are called to take care of one another, to love one another, no matter where in the world that we are. We are also called to protect and care for the earth, so that everyone can share in the good things that God has given us.

This can be hard sometimes. We might need to be brave and to speak out for what we know is right when we see others treating people or the earth badly.

Can you try to remember that God loves you this week? And can you be brave and try to share that love with others just like the disciples?

Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We know that every person and every living thing is important to God and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that she may continue to follow Jesus' example of respect and love for all people. Lord, in your mercy...

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

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We pray for all our sisters and brothers around the world: that they may make their stories heard and have hope for the future, as they work to build a fairer world. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may see that all people are equally important, no matter whether they are rich or poor. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, help us to see the beauty of your world, and to treat all people around the world with respect and love. May we share your hope and love with others. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Encourage the children to talk about the beautiful things of creation that remind us of God's love and care for each and every one of us.

Invite the children to write or draw in the clouds on the illustration some of the things they have mentioned. Remind them that when they are afraid, they can think about how much God loves these things and how much God loves them. Thinking about God's love for us can help us to feel brave, just like the disciples.

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home. Encourage them to think during the week about how they can help care for the world and for all the people in it.

Find more activities for children at cafod.org.uk/families

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)

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