

Children's liturgy for Second Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: brick shaped pieces of card/paper, pens or pencils, a large sheet of paper

Song suggestions: Peace is flowing like a river (902, Laudate)

Make me a channel of your peace (898, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus appeared to the disciples and shared peace with them. Let's think some more about peace today.

Opening prayer: God of peace, watch over those who face violence in their daily lives. Help us to be forgiving and to do what we can to bring peace to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 5:12-16

Psalm: Ps 117:2-4, 22-27 r. 1

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

Gospel: John 20:19-31

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

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

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

The disciples are frightened and lonely and so they have locked themselves away.

Who suddenly appears in the room? And what does Jesus say?

Jesus says: "Peace be with you." How did the disciples feel when they heard this? Why?

The disciples were filled with joy that Jesus had risen from the dead and was with them again.

Thomas wasn't there with the rest of the disciples when Jesus appeared. He refused to believe Jesus had been there until he saw for himself.

We all have times when we can be a bit like Thomas. When we find it hard to believe in God and his love for us. Times when we are not really sure if God really is here with us.

But God is always with us, even though we can't see him.

Peace can mean different things to different people. CAFOD asked some children around the world what peace meant to them, here are some of their answers:

Lucky in Kenya said, "Peace is very important and it makes us be united."

Sebastian who lives in Colombia said that "peace is forgiveness". He also thinks that "peace is very beautiful".

Yulia in Ukraine said: "My dream is to have peace over our heads."

What does peace mean to you?

There are many places in the world right now where there is conflict and war. Millions of people have had to leave their homes. Many have fled to other nearby countries.

CAFOD is part of a family of Catholic charities around the world called Caritas. When an emergency happens, Caritas is already there.

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

For instance, CAFOD has been helping Caritas to reach communities in Ukraine since the war broke out three years ago. They have been giving out food baskets and drinking water, offering hot meals and healthcare services to those in need.

Maria, Stephan and their four children had to flee the fighting and found shelter in a village on the other side of country. They couldn't afford the firewood that they needed to keep warm in the cold, snowy winter. But they were able to ask for and get help from Caritas.

Let us remember in our prayers this week everyone who is affected by war, and all the people who are working to support them. We pray that God will give them courage, strength and hope at this difficult time.

We also pray for world leaders to make the right decisions which will help to bring peace.

We can try to share peace in our lives. We can try to make things right when we have argued with a friend or family member. We can try to talk to people calmly when something upsets us or makes us angry, rather than shouting or stamping or being violent. We can stand up for what is right and help others who need some extra support.

Will you pray and work for peace in our world in the coming week? What will you do?

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

We know that God wants us to live in peace with others and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may do all that they can to bring peace to all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all those who are afraid because of violence and conflict: that they may know peace and safety. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are working to build peace in their communities: that they may find strength to carry on, even in the hardest times. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may share peace with those who are close to us and with others around the world. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of light, help us to bring peace to those who face violence, war and conflict, so that all your children around the world may know hope and happiness. Amen.

Activity suggestions

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Invite the children to write or draw what peace means to them in the banner on the accompanying illustration. On the back they could write a prayer for peace. Give the children an oblong shaped piece of card (brick sized) and encourage them to write or draw their message or prayer for peace on it. Use these “bricks” to build up a peace wall full of the group’s messages and/or prayers. You could add Lucky’s, Sebastian’s and Yulia’s messages too.

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in today’s liturgy with the people at home. If they have written a prayer encourage them to say it together during the week. Invite them to try to spread the message of peace throughout the week – making up if they’ve fallen out with anyone, not arguing, trying to be kind and generous etc.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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

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