

## **Children's liturgy – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) – 19 February 2017**

### **Preparing the worship space**

Colour: green

Props: green card cut into heart shapes on hoops of string. A piece of tree branch supported in a pot or a drawing of a tree branch on poster paper. Print off, or order for free, [One Climate, One World prayer and reflection cards](#) available from [cafod.org.uk/climatereflections](http://cafod.org.uk/climatereflections)

**Song suggestions:** All things bright and beautiful (27, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone), He's got the whole world in his hands (249, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

**Welcome:** Today Jesus asks us to think about making a new world by changing how we feel and act. Let's think about how we may be able to change as we listen to the reading.

**Opening prayer:** God of everything, you have made a wonderful world. Help us to think about the times we have not taken care of the world and to see how we can change so that everyone can live together as one. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

**Psalms:** Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 r. 8

**Gospel acclamation:** everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. Suggestions include: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional); 'Alleluia! Raise the Gospel' from 'Go Before Us', Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications.

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:38-48

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from this reading?

Jesus understands that no-one likes to be hurt and it's easy to want to punish others if they do hurt you. But Jesus says that if that is all we do then we will not make the world better.

Can you think of a time when someone did something to hurt or upset you? How did it make you feel? What did you do?

Jesus is asking us to be brave and to try a new way of living. To stand up against what is wrong with love and kindness. Do you think this is an easy thing to do?

Even if people have been upset with each other in the past they can make it up by talking about it and making things better. Perhaps your carers or teachers have helped you to do this? Maybe your other friends helped support you?

This week we celebrated St Valentine's Day when people sent each other cards. Why do you think someone would send a card to someone else?

A card might say that we are thinking about someone. It's a way to tell someone we care for them. It might remind us how much we care too.

God loves and cares for all of us and wants us to love all the other members of our global family – God created the world for the whole of our global family to live on.

But we haven't always been kind to the world. Could you send a card to the world? Would the world like to know that we care for it?

Some parts of the world suffer from unusual changes in the weather, where there have been floods or droughts that have damaged crops and homes, and put people's lives at risk. Do you know of anywhere that this has happened?

Scientists say that this climate change is caused because of the way we treat the world. The world has been our home for so many years and has taken care of us. Now, some of us take too much from the world. Something has to change so that everyone can share in all the resources of the world without spoiling things. It's not too late to do the right thing.

Can we work together to make a change for the world? Can we talk about what is not right with our actions? Can we notice what is really, very good about the world? Can we share those thoughts and ideas with other people, our friends and families?

How will you do these things in the coming week?

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

Jesus asks us to act with love to bring about a hopeful change of heart. Thinking of others around the world we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may listen to the scientists and make the changes that we need to make the world a safe place to live, especially for those living in poverty. Lord, hear us...

We pray for people who are poor, especially those who are already affected by the damage to our world: that together we may make a change so that all people can look to the future with hope. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be moved to listen and learn how we can help our neighbours around the world. Lord, hear us...

**Closing prayer:** God of love, help us to act with love to take of the world you have given us. Help us to love one another, even when it is difficult and to be good neighbours to everyone in the global family and to the earth that holds us all. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Give all the children a green heart cut out of card. Ask the children to draw or write on the green hearts what they love best about the world. On the other side write a promise to take care of the world however they can. Add loops of string

to the hearts and hang them on the branch or stick them on to a poster. Display this in the church where possible.

Look at the [Impact of climate change PowerPoint](https://www.cafod.org.uk/primary/climate) with the children, particularly slides 9-22 (available from [cafod.org.uk/primary/climate](https://www.cafod.org.uk/primary/climate)). Discuss the difference between how the floods affected Britain and how climate change affects people living in poorer countries. Think about how the whole world is affected. How CAFOD is helping. How we can help.

Using the [One Climate, One World reflection cards](https://www.cafod.org.uk/climatereflections) (available from [cafod.org.uk/climatereflections](https://www.cafod.org.uk/climatereflections)), talk to the children about how climate change might impact on the people in the photos. What are some of the things that they could do to make a difference? What could they do as a family or even in school? Have a look at [cafod.org.uk/playyourpart](https://www.cafod.org.uk/playyourpart) for some ideas which you could adapt to be more suitable for children.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Give them another green card heart and ask them to get a family member or friend to complete it with them.