

THE PROMISE OF GOD

Lent - Week 1 Year B Classroom Prayer For Children

Please note: If time does not allow for this prayer celebration to be used in its entirety, elements of it can be used for brief periods of prayer, or for a whole school assembly or liturgy, or for Children's Sunday Liturgy of The Word.

(At the end of this document there is a Children's Liturgy For The First Sunday of Lent Year B)

Introduction:

Children are seated in a circle for this liturgy. Ensure all are included in the circle, that they can see each other and are comfortable. The liturgy leader or teacher welcomes the children to the prayer gathering and invites all to join in the Gathering Song:

Gathering Song and Procession: WHEREVER I AM, GOD IS (HI GOD 3)

A large lit candle and lectionary or Bible are processed in and reverently placed in the centre of the circle on a purple draped cloth.

As the song is sung, 3 or 4 children move around the outside of the circle 'waving' lengths of coloured ribbons at a high, medium and low level. Include all the colours of the rainbow – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet – in the ribbons. Towards the end of the song they move into the centre of the circle, stand at the centre and continue waving the ribbons above their heads. When the song is finished they gently place the coloured ribbons in the centre of the circle on the floor in a flowing, random fashion. The dancers slowly return to their places in the circle.

Leader: Today we gather for our Lenten Prayer during our First Week of Lent. We will listen to God speak to us through the Word. We will pray together. Let us prepare ourselves in quiet to listen to God's Word.

Play quiet reflective instrumental music.

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15 *God's Promise to us*

The Reader comes forward, bows to the Book, picks up the Book and walks slowly to his/her place, standing to read.

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Genesis ...

Allow some time for children to reflect on what they have heard.

Responsory Prayer

Leader: You are our Companion, God. You make a promise to all your people. We call this promise a 'covenant'. Your promise is that we will never be alone; that you will always be with us. You give us your rainbow as the sign of your promise.

Our response is “You are always with me”

All: You are always with me.

Sometimes I forget that you are with me. Be with me, O God.

All: You are always with me.

Leader: At times I think I can do everything on my own. Be with me, O God.

All: You are always with me.

Leader: Sometimes I forget to ask for your help. Be with me, O God.

All: You are always with me.

Leader: At times I feel that I am alone. Be with me, O God.

All: You are always with me.

Leader: Sometimes I am worried and afraid. Be with me, O God.

All: You are always with me.

Leader: At times I do not know the best thing to do. Be with me, O God.

All: You are always with me.

Leader: Loving God, help us to know that you promise to always be with us, to guide us in our lives and bring us closer to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus who is our friend and brother.

All: Amen.

Gospel Mark 1:12-15 *Jesus in the desert*

All stand. The First Reader walks over and hands the Book to the person proclaiming the Gospel. Both bow to each other.

Reader: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark ...

Breaking Open The Word:

Allow some quiet time following the Gospel. Leader may pose the following focus questions for the children to reflect on:

Leader: What does God want to say to you now?

What would you like to say to God?

Play some quiet instrumental music at this time of reflection or the mantra,
GOD OF OUR JOURNEY (Praise & Blessings)

Litany

Leader: Companion God...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God of Jesus in the desert...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God of hope...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God who is always with us...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God whose sign is the rainbow after the storm...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God who holds us close to your heart...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God of the Covenant...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God who will never leave us...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: God who invites us to trust...

All: You are true to your promise!

Leader: Loving God, you are true to your promise! Help us to trust in you with all our hearts. You tell us you will always be with us, every day and in every way. As we continue our journey of Lent, help us to believe and rejoice in your promise and in the sign of your rainbow.

Blessing One Another

Invite the children in the circle to bless a partner next to them by saying, as they draw a simple rainbow in texta on the back of the child's hand:

This is God's promise. God is always with you!

Final Song: WHAT'S THE SURPRISE? (God Delights In You)

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Duration of the Liturgy: Approximately 30 minutes

Props and Resources:

Coloured lengths of ribbon – all colours of the rainbow

Large candle & matches

Lectionary or Bible

Purple cloth

Textas – each child to bring own set

People Required:

Leader

Candle Bearer

Bearer of the Word

3 or 4 children to move with the ribbons

Reader (1) for First Reading

Reader (1) for the Gospel

Music:

- **Wherever I Am, God Is** (Carey Landry – Hi God 3)
 - **God of Our Journey** (Monica Brown – Praise & Blessings)
 - **What's The Surprise?** (Monica Brown – God Delights In You)
 - **Til The End Of Time** (Michael Mangan – Saints and Celebrations)
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I TRUST IN GOD AND AM CHANGED

Lent - Week 2 Year B Classroom Prayer For Children

Please note: If time does not allow for this prayer celebration to be used in its entirety, elements of it can be used for brief periods of prayer, or for a whole school assembly or liturgy, or for Children's Sunday Liturgy of The Word.

Introduction:

Children are seated in a circle for this liturgy. Ensure all are included in the circle, that they can see each other and are comfortable. The liturgy leader or teacher welcomes the children to the prayer gathering and invites all to join in the Gathering Song:

**Gathering Song and Procession: A CIRCLE OF LOVE (As One
Voice/Vol 2)**

The Procession includes a large lit candle, lectionary or Bible and large colourful butterfly (type made from stretched stocking material -available in many gift/craft stores) These are reverently placed in the centre of the circle on a purple draped cloth.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Loving God, you ask us to place our trust in you. As we continue our Lenten journey, help us to come to know that by trusting in you, we can change our hearts, the way we act, the way we treat ourselves, others and our world; we can shine with your love.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us listen now as God speaks to us.

Gospel Mark 9:2-10 *The Transfiguration*

Breaking Open The Word:

Leader talks with the children about Jesus' experience, what it must have been like – how Jesus shone with God's love. Ask the children if that happened to them, if they were filled with God's love and called "Beloved..." would they ever feel the same again? Leader holds up butterfly and talks briefly about the process of change; from caterpillar to pupa to winged creature.

When we change, we give up something – like the butterfly- so that we can become 'new'. Sometimes change (or transformation) is painful. It requires trust. Leader leads the children in a shared conversation discussing how we children have changed as the grow: physically, intellectually, socially...

Take some time to think about how we would like to change the way we act and what we do to become better persons as God would want us to be.

Invite children to share some of these ways, eg. "I can become more loving by ...", "I can become more patient by ...", "I can become more giving by ...". "I can become more tolerant by ...", "I can become more peaceful by ..."

Litany

Leader: God who lives within me...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who loves me without end...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who believes in me...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who knows what I can become...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who can change my heart...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who shines forth in the person of Jesus...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who turns darkness into light...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who rejoices in me...

All: Your love transforms me!

Leader: God who calls me to trust in you...

All: Your love transforms me!

Reflective Song: OPEN MY EYES LORD (As One Voice /Vol 1)

Have the children sit quietly with eyes closed and reflect on this song.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: We turn to you in trust, our God of all goodness. Hear the prayers we make on our journey through Lent.

Reader: You call us to be the best persons we can be. We pray ...

All: (With extended open hands) Help us to trust in you.

Reader: When we fail, help us to start over again with changed hearts. We pray...

All: (With extended open hands) Help us to trust in you.

Reader: When we are like Abraham, facing great difficulty ...

All: (With extended open hands) Help us to trust in you.

Reader: When we feel we cannot change and it is all too hard ...

All: (With extended open hands) Help us to trust in you.

Leader: You bring light where there is darkness, you turn our sorrow into joy, you make us new when we trust in you. Hear our prayers and transform us in your love. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Blessing

Leader: Leader prays the following Blessing over the group of children then sprinkles them with the water:

May the God of Jesus who was transformed by the power of God bless and keep you.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the God of Abraham protect you always.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may God's Holy Spirit come into your lives and hearts to renew you and strengthen you.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us go now to love and trust in our God!

Final Song: JESUS YOU LIVE IN OUR HEARTS (As One Voice For Kids)

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Duration of Liturgy: Approximately 30 minutes

Props & Resources:

Large candle & matches

Lectionary or Bible

Purple cloth

Large colourful butterfly – made from stretched stocking material - available in gift/craft shops

Bowl of water & sprig of greenery

People Required:

Candle Bearer

Bearer of the Word

Leader

Bearer of the Butterfly

Reader (1) First Reading

Reader (1) Gospel

Music:

- **A Circle of Love (F.Sandler – As One Voice/Vol 2)**
 - **Open My Eyes Lord (As One Voice/Vol 1)**
 - **Jesus You Live In Our Hearts (M. Millward & D. Halloran – As One Voice For Kids)**
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THE WAY OF GOD

Lent - Week 3 Year B Classroom Prayer For Children

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Introduction:

Children are seated in a circle for this liturgy. Ensure all are included in the circle, that they can see each other and are comfortable. The liturgy leader or teacher welcomes the children to the gathering and invites all to join in the Gathering Song:

Gathering Song and Procession: THE PATH TO YOU (Let's Celebrate Too)

A large lit candle, lectionary or Bible and strip of black material (blindfold) are processed into the centre of the circle and reverently placed in the centre of the circle on the purple cloth while the song is sung.

Leader: The Lord is with you!

All: And also with you!

Leader: Our journey through Lent continues. As we begin our time in prayer here today, let us take some quiet time to reflect on the times we have not lived as the best persons we could be. Allow some time for children to reflect.

Leader: When we struggle to follow you in goodness and truth – Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: When we turn away from you thinking we know what is best for ourselves - Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: When we fail to love others as Jesus shows us – Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: May our God who is good lead us to renew our hearts and lives especially during this season of renewal. We make our prayer through Jesus your son.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. God who guides us, your ways sometimes seem strange to us. We do not always understand how and where you are leading us. May we come to know something of the Mystery of you and your plans for us in our lives.

Reading Book of Exodus 20:1-17 *God gives Moses the Commandments*

Breaking Open the Word:

A Trust Walk: With prior planning and consent, the teacher/leader blindfolds a child and leads him/her around in the centre space of the circle. As the blindfolded student cannot see s/he will rely on the teachers instructions, reassurance, helping hand and warnings to safely negotiate the walk. The student will need to place his/her trust in the guidance of the teacher. The teacher needs to ensure that the child is safe and feeling comfortable. After several minutes of 'leading' invite another student to take over as leader. When appropriate finish this demonstration with some dialogue. Ask the blindfolded student how s/he felt. Was it frightening in the dark? How did you know what to do? Ask the group/class how they felt. Draw on the notion of trust, being led or directed by another, feelings of fear of the unknown. The one who leads knows what is best and can help the one who cannot see. God is gently leading us. Sometimes God's ways seem strange to us. We can become afraid or feel lost like the one who is blindfolded. Where is God? What does God do at these times?

Reflection: **GOD OF OUR JOURNEY (Praise & Blessings)**

Litany

Leader: We respond with, "Your ways are wonderful!"

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God of Mystery...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God of Wisdom...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God of surprise...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God who leads me gently...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God who asks me to trust...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God whose ways are not always my ways...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God who has a plan for me when I do not understand...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God who is there for me on my journey...

All: Your ways are wonderful!

Leader: God who leads us in your ways, you know what is best for us. Help us to trust in you and rely on you as we try to glimpse and live out what you intend for us. You are Mystery. You are our all- loving God and your ways are truly wonderful! Let us go now in peace!

Final Song: **CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT (Sing Your Joy)**

Duration of the Liturgy: Approximately 30 minutes

Props & Resources:

Large candle & matches
Lectionary or Bible
Purple cloth
Strip of black material (blindfold)

People Required:

Candle Bearer
Lectionary/Bible Bearer
Reader (1) First Reading
Reader (1) Gospel
Student (1) for blindfolding
Student to lead Trust Walk

Music:

- **The Path To You (John Burland – Let's Celebrate Too!)**
 - **God Of Our Journey (Monica Brown – Praise & Blessings)**
 - **Children of The Light (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)**
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It's Time...

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR B Resource Ideas For Children's Liturgy

Entrance Song: **THERE'S A TIME** (God Delights In You – Monica Brown)

Introduction:

...during this time of Lent, it is...
Time to remember that God is very close to us.
Time to recognize that God loves us.
Time to look at our lives and to change selfish habits we have fallen into.

Penitential Rite: (2 children needed for mime)

- 1) You were sent to heal those who are ashamed of what they have done.

Child One stands with face turned away, one hand covering the face and the other hand reaching out. Child Two slowly takes the hand away from the face and turns the face around until they are both looking at each other.

Lord, have mercy.

- 2) You came to bring peace to those who hurt others and do wrong.**

Child One stands in fighting pose. Child Two opens his/her fists and holds his/her hands.

Christ, have mercy.

- 3) You are always asking God to bless us and to mind us.**

Child One stands looking at the congregation. Child Two encircles Child One with one hand and lays the other hand on her/his and then Child Two rests her/his head on Child One's head.

Lord, have mercy.

May Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us life everlasting life.

Pause as two children go back to their places

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The first and second readings merge into one paraphrased proclamation

- 1) Narrator
- 2) Reader

Props:

- 1) Rainbow
- 2) Large glass bowl of water

First Reading: **Genesis 9: 8 – 15**

This reading, from the book of Genesis, tells the story of God making an agreement with the whole world. God promises Noah that God will be there to care for everyone and will look after the whole of the earth. When the rainbow appears in the sky it will remind God of the promise God made.

A painting of a big rainbow is carried forward and held high where the reader is. The reader proclaims:

Let this rainbow remind us of God's promise to be there for us and to care for us.

The rainbow is lowered and the narrator continues...

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18 – 22

About 2000 years ago Peter wrote many letters to people reminding them of how God loves and cares for them. In the letter that is today's second reading, Peter talks about Noah and the flood. He says that the water that flooded the earth at the time of Noah reminds us of our Baptism and the promise we made to try to live good and honest lives like Jesus.

A glass bowl of water is carried forward and held high where the reader is. The reader proclaims:

Let this bowl of water remind us of our promise to love God by respecting one another and our earth.

The rainbow and the bowl of water are placed in a special place – maybe somewhere in the sanctuary, or on a wall and table in a significant place in the church.

Responsorial Psalm: OUR GOD IS GOOD (Praise & Blessings – Monica Brown)

Gospel: Mark 1:12 – 15

- 1) Narrator
- 2) Jesus

Narrator: The spirit of God moved Jesus to go into the desert be alone with God. Jesus stayed there for forty days and during that time he was tempted by the evil spirit to turn away from God and to use his gifts for himself alone. But Jesus did not give in to the temptations. God looked after him and Jesus was peaceful.

When he came out of the desert he went to Galilee and this is what he said:

A child comes up stands in the middle of the sanctuary and looking around at everyone says in a loud voice:

Listen everyone! Now is the time to remember that God is very close to us. Change your life. Believe that God loves you. Live doing what is right and good to others.

The reader and 'Jesus' hold that position for a few seconds then together they go back to their places.

Presider: This is the Gospel of the Lord

Prayer of the Faithful:

- 1) We pray for the leaders of our church and for all world leaders. May they work at bringing peace to our earth without causing hatred and war.

Lord, hear us.

- 2) We pray for children everywhere. We remember especially those who are starving, those who have no home or family and those who are frightened and lonely. During this Lent may we share generously what we have so that we can bring some help to them.

Lord, hear us.

- 3) We pray for all those in our parish who are sick, lonely or who are upset in anyway. Give them peace and healing God and may we help them by showing respect and care.

Lord, hear us.

- 4) We remember all those who have died, especially those we knew and loved. We pray that they are at peace with you God.

Lord, hear us.

Offertory Procession:

- Trocaire Box / Project Compassion Box
- bread
- wine

Song: Love is the Greatest Gift (God Delights In You – Monica Brown)

Communion:

Song: God Is Love (Praise & Blessings – Monica Brown)

Song: I Have A Song (Praise & Blessings – Monica Brown)

Dismissal: Invite people to bless themselves from the bowl of water in front of the rainbow as they leave the church. They might like to do this as a family – the children blessing the parents or the parents blessing the children.

Final Song: Go Now in Peace (Praise & Blessings – Monica Brown)

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