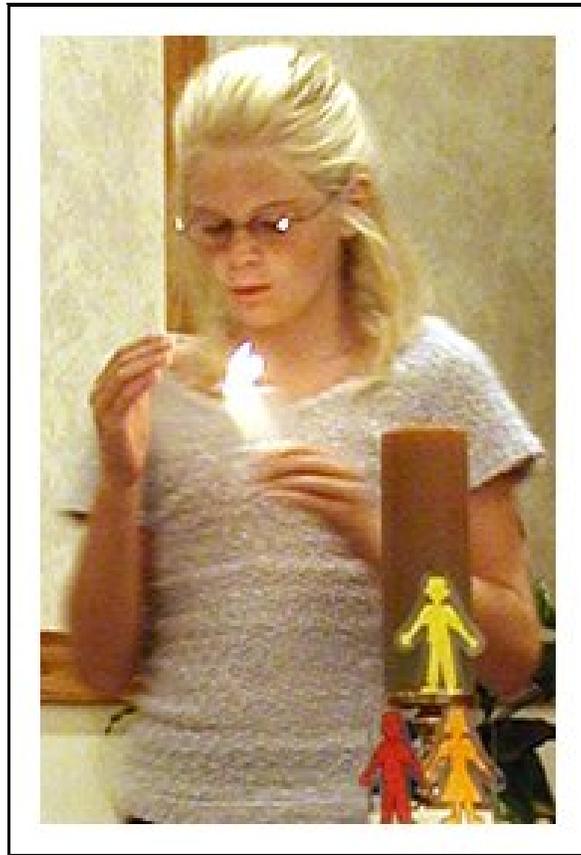


Some ideas for

Creative Prayer



Compiled by Jane Tibbs, Children's Adviser for the Diocese of Bath and Wells

An opening prayer

As we gather together
Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we put aside the things that distract us
Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we leave behind the things that worry us
Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we forget about ourselves
Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we worship you with songs of praise
Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we listen to stories from your Word
Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we hear your teaching
Lord, help us to concentrate on you



Prayer Pauses

Many people find it helpful when prayers that are led from the front include short pauses for private prayer.

Father God, we thank you for our church/group and we ask that you will help us to grow closer to each other and closer to you.

Let's think of the people sitting on either side of us and ask that God will be especially close to them. PAUSE

We also remember those people who are not with us today, perhaps through illness or because they are on holiday.

Let's remember them in our own prayers now. PAUSE

Father God, we thank you for the town where we live and we ask that you will help us to spread your love to our friends and neighbours.

Let's think of one or two particular friends and ask that God will help us tell them the Good News. PAUSE

Father God, we thank you for the time we have spent together and we ask that you will be with us throughout the rest of the day.

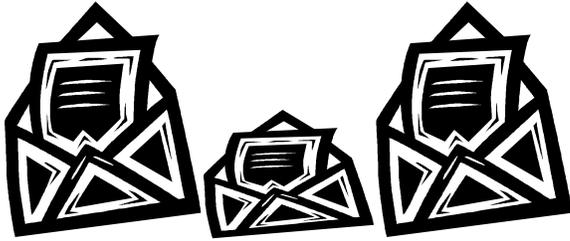
Let's think of the things that we are going to do later today and bring them before God now. PAUSE

Lord, thank you that you listen to all our prayers spoken and unspoken. Amen.

Thank you, sorry, please teaspoon prayers

Perhaps the most simple way of structuring a prayer is to use the three words thank you, sorry, please. Have a short time of chat and discussion focussing on what the group might want to say to God using these three words. Finally have a short time of open prayer or ask a leader to weave together all the topics mentioned, in a closing prayer. TSP, the first letters of Thank you, Sorry, Please, remind us of the recipe book abbreviation for teaspoon. It can be helpful to give younger children a plastic teaspoon to take home to remind them of these three basic categories for prayer.





Three envelopes

Some groups start out by being rather shy about praying out loud. In this case why not pin up three envelopes labelled "Thank you" "Sorry" and "Please" and let group members write their prayers on slips of paper and put them in the appropriate envelope. Don't forget to check the envelopes from time to time to let everyone share in the joy of the thank you prayers and to find out how the please prayers have been answered.

Hand prayers

Give each member of your group a piece of paper and ask them to draw around and cut out the shape of their own hand. On the four fingers they should write:

- something to praise God for
- something to thank God for
- something for which they would like to ask God's help
- something they would like to say sorry about

Group members can fold down the fingers on their paper hand if they wish to keep their prayers secret.

A leader should conclude by praying for the group, leaving pauses for people to bring their own prayers to God silently.



Praise poster

In small groups read St Luke 1:26-55 (the Magnificat) and pick out the phrases that describe God. Give each person a sheet of paper and ask them to write out one of the phrases in large, colourful lettering. Paste all the finished phrases on to backing paper under the caption, "We can praise God because..."

Fold a prayer – prayer consequences!

Give everyone a piece of paper and ask them to write a one-line prayer request at the top of the page. When they have done this they should fold over the paper. Then pass the paper to the left. Each person should now have a different piece of paper on which they can write another one-line prayer and fold it over again. If they wish, they can write the same prayer again. The paper should be passed on several more times until five or six prayers are on the page. Then everyone should stop, unfold and read their paper. Invite everyone to spend a few moments silently offering these prayers to God. If there is time, the prayers can be put in a pile and everyone offered the opportunity to take and read a new set of prayers.

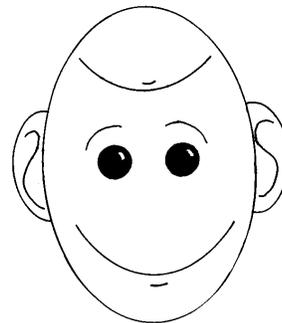
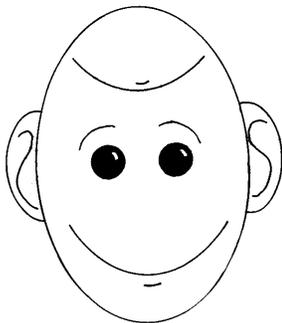
In happy times and sad times

You will need a large face that looks happy one way up and sad the other way up.

Show the happy face first and ask what events have made people happy during the last week and make a list of them. Pray about the list or say a one-line thank you prayer for each one. Then turn the face upside down and ask if anything sad or worrying has happened in the past week and make a list of them too. Perhaps there are people who are ill who need praying for. Pray for this list.

Finish by thanking God that he always knows how we feel, whether we are happy or sad, and thanking him for being just as close to us in the good times as in the bad.

Perhaps everyone could have a happy/sad face to take home as a memory jogger during prayer time.



Wash away wrongdoing

Ask the group to make a list of things that we do to make God feel sad. Using a water soluble pen, write the ideas on an acetate and project them on an Overhead Projector. Once the list is complete, weave all the suggestions into a responsive prayer something like this:

For all the times we make you feel sad
We want to say... sorry, Lord!

For the times when we lie and cheat
We want to say... sorry, Lord!

For the times when we are bad-tempered and grumpy
We want to say... sorry, Lord!

For the times when we are rude or naughty
We want to say... sorry, Lord!

For the times when we deliberately disobey
We want to say... sorry, Lord!

For the times when we are selfish or unkind
We want to say... sorry, Lord!

For all the wrong things we do
We want to say... sorry, Lord!
Amen.

When the prayer is over, sprinkle a few drops of water onto the acetate and watch the water dissolve the ink. Next, use a cloth to wipe the whole acetate clean to illustrate that when we say sorry to God he forgives us and wipes away our wrongdoing, giving us the opportunity to make a fresh, clean start.

Take great care not to flood the OHP – it is an ELECTRICAL appliance!!

Wipe away my sins

In advance, write "I'm sorry, please wipe away my sins" on a piece of kitchen roll.

On a blackboard, invite people to list things which they are sorry about – being greedy, not helping someone in need etc. Explain that God wants to forgive us for all our wrong doings and give us the opportunity to make a fresh start. All we have to do is say sorry to God and really mean it. Read Psalm 51 and say a simple prayer saying sorry to God for all the things on the list. Then produce the kitchen towel and invite someone to wipe away the words. When we say sorry to God he not only forgives us but wipes the slate clean.

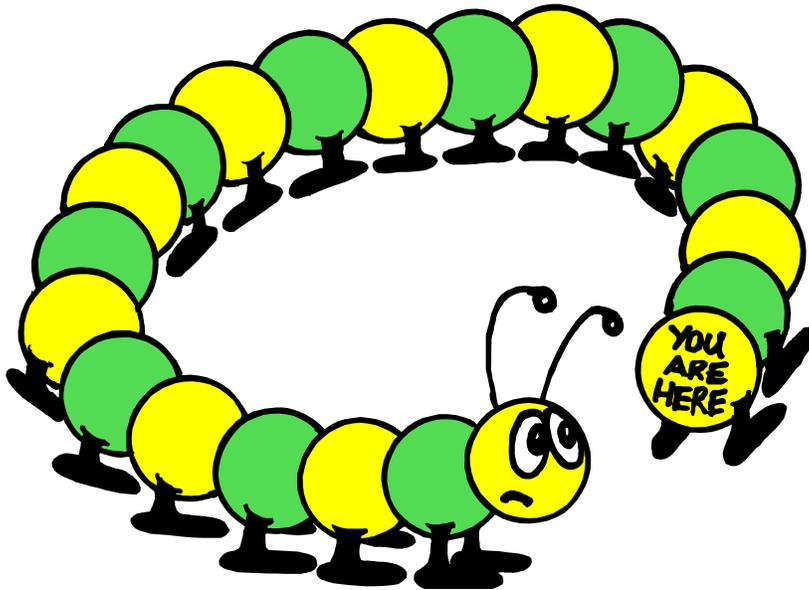
In the bin

Happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven, whose sins are pardoned! Happy is the person whose sins the Lord will not keep account of! Romans 4:7-8

Give each member of the group a small slip of paper and invite them to write a short prayer saying sorry to God for anything which is on their mind. Have a few moments of silence in which people can quietly offer their prayers to God and then pass round a bin and ask everyone to tear up their prayer and put the pieces in the bin. Explain that when we say sorry to God, God takes away all our wrongdoing and gives us the chance to make a fresh start. If you are able to go outside, you might like to put all the torn-up prayers in a metal waste-bin and then set light to them.

Thank you for animals

Give out circles of paper and invite everyone to write a prayer about animals on it. Stick the prayer circles onto a large piece of card to look like a caterpillar and stick a smiley face with antennae on the front. You might want to add feet to the circles.



Light triumphs

You will need a candle that relights itself.

Light the candle. Explain that Jesus was the light of the world and when he died, the devil thought that he had put out the light. Blow the candle out. As it relights, explain that Jesus' power was greater than the darkness, and he came back to life.

This can also be used at alternative Hallowe'en celebrations.

Prayer candles

You will need a candle and card circle for everyone.

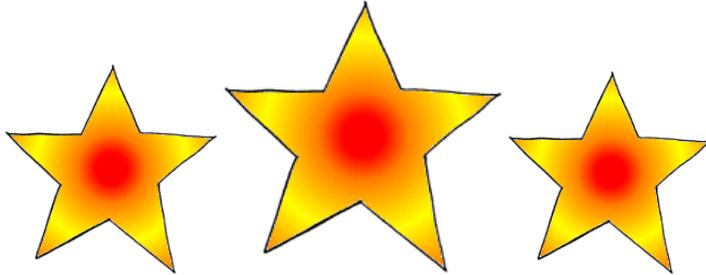
Invite the congregation to write or draw on their circle things they want to pray for. You might need to suggest events or someone who is ill etc. Invite them to write something they want to ask God about for themselves. Then insert the candle in its card circle holder. The candles can be lit and a general prayer said.

Suggest that these prayer candles might be used regularly during prayer time at home.



Christmas Stars

Cut out enough stars for everyone to have one, or make some star templates and let every member of the group make their own star. Invite everyone to write one-line prayers thanking God for the gift of his own Son on that first Christmas. Decorate the edges of the prayer stars with glitter, then punch a hole in the top of each one and attach a piece of ribbon so that they can be hung on the Christmas tree.



Holly wreath

Give out paper holly leaves and invite people to write short prayers on them. Children can draw something about Christmas on theirs. Stick all the prayers onto a circle of card and add a few red paper berries. Attach a ribbon and hang the prayer wreath on a door.



Gift of Praise

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and we praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:13

Make a gift of praise for God. Gift wrap a small cardboard box and tie a bright ribbon around it, or paste a large square of gift wrap onto backing paper and add ribbons so that it looks like a present. Then, give out small pieces of paper or sticky labels and ask the group to each draw or write something that they want to thank God for. Play some quiet music while people come up one at a time to paste or stick their prayers on to the box.



Snowflakes



Give each group member a circle of paper and show them how to fold and cut it to make a snowflake. (if you don't have enough scissors for the whole group, you might like to try tearing the paper) When everyone has cut their own snowflake and unfolded it to reveal the shape, compare all the different patterns. You should find that no two snowflakes are identical. Microscopes reveal that snowflakes are made up of tiny six-sided ice crystals and no two crystals are exactly the same. No two people are identical either. Each person is unique; even twins are really quite different. As a group compose a prayer praising God that each person is special and unique and thanking him that he knows each of us inside out. He even knows how many hairs we have on our head! Write out the prayer, then stick it on to a sheet of black or dark blue paper with all the snowflakes displayed around the edge.

Balloon prayers

Have ready a number of inflated balloons and a selection of permanent marker pens. Invite everyone to suggest one-line thank you prayers and write two or three prayers on each balloon. Hang the balloons in clusters around your church or meeting room. These could be made as part of a special celebration service.



Pop the balloon

Have ready a number of inflated balloons and a selection of permanent marker pens. Invite everyone to name some of the reasons for which we might need to say sorry to God. Write these on the balloons. Then have a few moments of prayer asking God's forgiveness for all the things we do wrong and including the suggestions written on the balloons. Finally pop the balloons and explain that when we say sorry to God, he not only forgives us, but he also forgets the wrong things we have done and gives us the chance to make a fresh start.

Prayer paper chain

Give each member of the group a strip of coloured paper and encourage them to write a one-line thank you prayer. Fasten all the strips together to make a festive paper chain that you can hang across your meeting room. If you have a small group you might want to give each person two or three strips of paper or add to the chain week by week. The prayer paper chain is particularly effective on special occasions like Christmas, Easter and church anniversaries when a long chain can be made during an All-Age service.



Christmas Thought

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Luke 2:16

At Christmas we send Cards to each other
And hang sprigs of Holly around picture frames
We hum Rudolph the Red nosed reindeer
As we put Ivy into floral decorations
Children write a list for Santa
And help drape Tinsel on the tree
Mum makes scores of Mince pies
And little girls look Angelic in nativity plays
But don't forget the Son of God, for it's his birthday
That we're celebrating, Though
An outsider
Might be forgiven
For not rEalising

Christingles

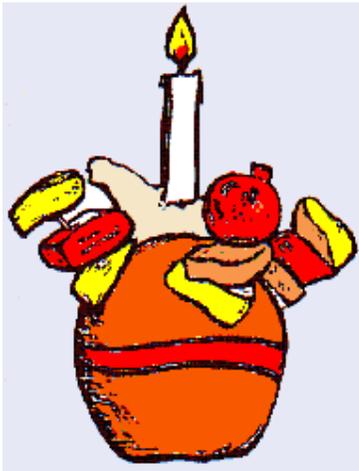
I have come into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness John 12:46

You will need oranges, red ribbon, cocktail sticks, sweets, dried fruit, birthday cake candles and holders

Although the Christingle has been around for many years, for many people in this country they are, in fact, a new idea. The Christingle service (meaning Christ light or Christ child) in which decorated oranges are distributed, began over 250 years ago in a Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. This tradition has spread around the world and many churches in the UK now hold an annual Christingle service in aid of The Children's Society (see www.the-childrens-society.org.uk).

During the service each child receives a Christingle, which is an orange (representing the world) with a red ribbon tied around it (representing Christ's blood shed for the world). A small candle is stuck into the top of the orange to represent Jesus, the light of the world. Four cocktail sticks, spiked with dried fruits or small sweets, are stuck into the sides of the orange to represent the people of the world, the sweetness of knowing Jesus and the fruits of the seasons. The Christingle service is more than just a candlelit service, since each orange tells the story of Jesus' love for the world.

Lord Jesus,
You are the light, which shines in the darkness
You are the light, which guides our feet
You are the light, which fills us with a warm glow
You are the light, which illuminates our lives
You are the light, which leads us to safety
You are the light, which will shine for ever
You are the light of the world and we worship you.
Amen.



An army of angels

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

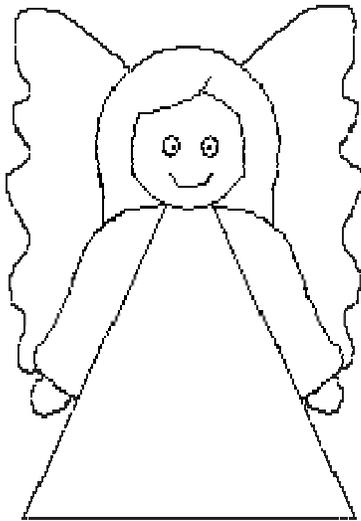
Luke 2:13-14

You will need dark backing paper, angel pictures, glue, pens, glitter, sticky stars

Tell your group the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds in the field one dark night (Luke 2:8-20). With a young group, you might like to use a version from a children's Bible.

Give everyone a copy of an angel picture and ask them to write their own short prayer on the angels' robe thanking God for the gift of his Son at Christmas. Anyone who is unsure what to write might consider copying the angel's words from Luke 2:14. Young children could colour in their angel picture in bright colours.

Play some Christmas music while the group glues all the prayers onto the backing paper to like an army or a host of angels. As a finishing touch add a sprinkling of glitter and sticky stars to the backing paper,



Gift-shaped prayers

"... pray always for all God's people."
Ephesians 6:18

You will need a large outline of a Christmas tree, tinsel, squares and rectangles of coloured paper or large sticky labels.

Take a moment to stop and think about those people for whom Christmas will not be happy this year. These could include people who have been recently bereaved, those in war-torn countries, those who are ill, those who have lost their jobs recently. All these needy people deserve a special Christmas present and, even though we don't know many of these people personally, we can still give them the gift of our prayers. Give out the squares and rectangles of paper and invite the group to write their own prayers for those in need this Christmas. Stick all the prayer-presents onto the outline of the Christmas tree. Decorate the tree with tinsel and then offer all the gifts to God in a concluding prayer.



Prayer poem

Today is a time for rejoicing
to think of the story of old.
Today is a time to say 'Thank you'
for all that the prophets foretold.

Today is a time to say 'Thank you'
for presents and laughter and joy.
Today is our Lord's special birthday –
for Jesus was once just a boy.

Today is a time to remember
the people who've never been told
of God's greatest gift to his people –
his Son who came into this world.

Lord, bless all the people who suffer,
the sick and the lonely and poor,
the people whose lands have been taken
and those who are angry and sore.

Bring peace, hope and joy to your people
and help us show more of your love,
for one day we'll be close beside you
rejoicing in heaven above.

Christmas Day

We thank you, Lord, for the joys of this day:
for the joy of giving and receiving;
the joy of reunion with family and friends;
the joys of feasting and of laughter.
We thank you, Lord, for the singing of carols and Christmas hymns;
for the reading of loved and familiar words of scripture;
the joys of worship and holy celebration.

Thanks be to you, Lord, for the challenge of Christmas;
for your coming in poverty
which challenges the affluence we take for granted;
for your self-giving
which puts in perspective all our charity.

Lord, give us pause in all our celebrations to contemplate the mystery of your holy incarnation.

Father, we pray for those who at Christmas are made more aware of their own loneliness:
for those who get no presents, or very few;
for those who have no families, or whose families are far away.
We pray for those to whom Christmas brings sharp memories of happier ones.
Christ be with them and grant them consolation.

Lord of all good, your Word is in the world. Teach us to hear him, and so to celebrate his birth that we may be born again to a life of righteousness.

New Year

I will give you a new heart and a new mind. Ezekial 36:26

Give each member of your group a piece of paper and show them how to fold it in half and then tear it into a heart shape. Encourage each group member to write the following words on their heart:

Lord, in the year that's about to start,
Help me to love you with all my heart.

Read out the following prayer and invite group members to read out the words written on their hearts as a response:

Father God, as we look forward to the coming year, we ask that you will bless us and be close to us.

Lord, in the year that's about to start,
Help me to love you with all my heart.

Father God, please help us all to make the most of all the opportunities that you give us in the next twelve months.

Lord, in the year that's about to start,
Help me to love you with all my heart.

Father God, please give us the strength and courage to bear the difficulties and disappointments of the coming year.

Lord, in the year that's about to start,
Help me to love you with all my heart.

Father God, in everything we do this year, may we turn to you for help and guidance.

Lord, in the year that's about to start,
Help me to love you with all my heart.
Amen.

New Year resolutions

They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. Matthew 2:11

Remind your group of the wise men who travelled a long way to find Jesus. When they found him they knelt down and worshipped him and offered him special gifts. What could we resolve to do during this New Year to show Jesus how much he means to us?

Discuss the different possibilities and write up all the suggestions on a board or overhead projector acetate. For example

- we could set aside a regular time to talk to God
- we could try to read our Bible more often
- we could be more willing to share our possessions
- we could resolve to tell someone else the good news about Jesus.

Conclude with a prayer asking God to help the group keep their New Year's resolutions.



New Year blessing

"Jesus never changes! He is the same yesterday, today and for ever."

Hebrews 13:8

You will need small calendars, copies of prayer, card, glitter, sticky shapes, glue, hole punch, ribbon, sticky tape

In advance, buy a number of the small calendars that are designed to hang under a photograph or painting. Give the children a copy of the prayer below and encourage them to colour an attractive border or stick glitter and shapes around the edge of the text. Paste the prayer onto a sheet of stiff card and punch two holes in the top so that you can thread a length of ribbon through to make a loop. Fix a calendar under each prayer and encourage the children to give this new year blessing to a special friend or relation.

In this coming year I pray that:
God's love will surround you
God's wisdom will guide you
God's word will teach you
And God's ear will hear you
Amen

Smiles and prayers

This would work well at the end of a New Year's Eve party

You will need sheets of smiley stickers, enough for one sheet per person

Give everyone a small sheet of smiley stickers, and encourage them to go round wishing each other "Happy New Year!" and giving people a sticker as a token of their greeting, or prayers for them in the coming year. If you have a local venue where people gather at new year, for example, the local clock tower, you could get your party to go out and give smiley stickers to people in the gathering, wishing them God's best for the coming year.



For those who sow the first seeds

Hold up an apple and ask how many seeds there might be inside it. Cut the apple open and count the seeds to discover who guessed correctly. All of these seeds have the potential to grow into an apple tree and produce fruit of their own. In the parable of the sower, Luke 8:4-15, Jesus teaches that the seed is like God's Word. In the right situation it will grow and flourish. Ask everyone who first told them about Jesus, who sowed the first seed. Thank God for all these people, eg parents, friends, Sunday school leaders, church leaders.

Flowers

Place a vase filled with water centrally. Scatter flowers on the table or floor around the vase. Explain that the flowers need to be put back in the container with the water in order to live. We need to be in contact with God to be whole and to know life in its fullness.

Ask everyone to pray, in silence, for people and situations they know that need the life-giving Spirit given by Jesus. Invite them to place one of the scattered flowers back in the vase as a token of their prayer in silence, or with a brief explanation of their prayer. When the vase is full it can be placed on the altar.



Mothering Sunday

You will need a selection of props as listed

Say that mums play many different and important roles in family life. Pull out your props one at a time and talk about some of the tasks that mums carry out.

ie

Whisk	they cook for us
Bandage	they look after us when we're injured
Medicine	they nurse us when we're ill
Car keys	they take us to places (to school, church, see our friends)
Washing powder	they wash and iron our clothes
Screwdriver	they fix things
Storybook	they tell us stories
Exercise book	they help us with homework
A big paper heart	they go on and on loving us, even when we're naughty

Give out the props to a number of different children and ask them to each say a one-line prayer thanking God that mums do that particular thing for us. Alternatively, say a concluding thank-you prayer yourself, weaving in all the different roles mentioned.



Adapt this for use on Fathers' day, remembering that we enjoy the privilege of having two fathers, one on earth and one in heaven.

Welcoming Jesus

A prayer of welcome for Palm Sunday

Explain that when Jesus entered Jerusalem the people shouted praises to welcome him. As the people greeted Jesus, we can also respond to him and give him praise. Use the responsive prayer below, encouraging everyone to respond loudly with the words in italics.

In our town and in our homes,
We welcome you, Jesus!
With our friends and families,
We welcome you, Jesus!

In our work and play,
We welcome you, Jesus!
In all that we hope for,
We welcome you, Jesus!

In the times when we are upset or worried,
We welcome you, Jesus!
In every part of our lives,
We welcome you, Jesus!



Palm leaf prayers

You will need green paper palm-leaf shapes, pens, brown paper tree trunk, backing paper, glue

Read the words of praise that the crowd shouted as Jesus rode into town (John 12:12-13)

Encourage everyone to write their own one-line praise prayers on the palm leaves – eg. “Jesus, you’re amazing!” “Jesus, you’re the best friend ever!”

Mount the palm tree trunk onto backing paper and paste the palm leaf prayers around the top to make a prayer collage.

Torn in two

A prayer of response suitable for Good Friday

You will need a short length of ribbon for each person, pins, a curtain torn in two.

Invite everyone to pin their piece of ribbon to the torn curtain to represent the sin that gets between them and God. Lead a prayer of confession, then thank God for destroying all those barriers through Jesus' death.

Pray together, if possible:

Be with us, Lord, in the seeking and the finding.

Draw near us, Lord, in the stumbling and the falling.

Reveal yourself to us, in the gazing and the loving. Amen.

At the close of the service, invite people to walk through the gap in the curtain as a sign of coming freely to God.



Hot Cross buns

You will need enough hot cross buns for everyone to try, butter (optional), plate

Hold up a hot cross bun and ask the group if they know why we eat these buns at Easter. Say that millions of people in different countries eat hot cross buns to remember how Jesus suffered on the cross for our wrongdoing.

Think about some of the ingredients needed to make the buns. Yeast is needed to make the buns rise; it can also remind us that Jesus did not stay dead – he rose again. Dried fruits are added to the mixture; these remind us of the good things that come from Jesus' death. Without his death on the cross we would not be able to enjoy new life.

Pass around the hot cross buns and, in a time of quiet, invite everyone to take a piece and eat it. As the group does this encourage everyone to take this opportunity to silently thank Jesus in their heart for his willingness to die a slow and painful death so that we might live.

Colour Coded

An Easter prayer incorporating a simple craft activity.

You will need A4 papers in different colours, drawing materials, stapler

Remind everyone that, for those who loved Jesus, Good Friday was a dreadful day when very bad things happened. Saturday was a quiet, sad day and Sunday, a wonderful day of rejoicing.

Give each person a dark paper for Friday, a neutral paper for Saturday and a bright paper for Sunday. Let them write the days at the top, then draw or write about the events of each day on the appropriate sheet. Use white, silver or yellow crayon on the dark paper. Staple the sheets together in order.

Say that the three different days were all part of God's plan. With the Friday pages showing, pray thanking God that Jesus died on the cross so that we could be forgiven. Turn to Saturday and allow a time of quiet to think about how much God loves us, then turn to Sunday and invite everyone to shout their own praises to Jesus for being alive today.



Light triumphs

You will need a relighting candle (test it at home first!) and a box of matches

Light the candle and talk about Jesus' death as the darkness trying to put out the light (Jesus). Blow the candle out. As it relights, say that Jesus' power was greater than the darkness and he came back to life.

Say the following prayer with everyone joining in the responses:

Thank you, Jesus, for your love for us
Hallelujah! Jesus is the King!

Thank you for suffering so that we can have new life
Hallelujah! Jesus is the King!

We praise you because you defeated death
Hallelujah! Jesus is the King!

Help us to know you are close to us always
Hallelujah! Jesus is the King!
Amen



Gift of Praise

Gift wrap a large box and tie a bright ribbon around it. Ask the congregation to write or draw on a sticky label something they want to praise God for. Play some music while people come up and stick their praises onto the box.



Floral Cross

You will need a large piece of brown card, flower shapes cut from brightly coloured paper, pens, glue

In advance cut an enormous cross out of card (if possible, use corrugated card to give a textured effect). Talk about how the cross reminds us of the events of Good Friday. In fact Good Friday was not a good day at all, but a very sad day on which we remember that Jesus was put to death on the cross even though he had done nothing wrong. Some people think that the name Good Friday may have derived from "God's Friday", just as "goodbye" comes from "God be with ye". Others believe that we call the day Good Friday because in the old days the word "good" was often used to mean "holy". In many European languages Good Friday is called "Great Friday". On Good Friday Jesus certainly did a very great thing for all mankind. He gave his life for our wrongdoing, so that all who believe in him might be free.

The cross is a symbol of Jesus' death, but Jesus did not stay on the cross: he rose again, and so it is also a symbol of our new life in him. Give out the flower shapes and invite everyone to write a short prayer on their flower thanking Jesus for his amazing love. Young children could draw a happy face. Play some rousing Easter music and invite everyone to come up and stick their flower prayers onto the cross.



Flame prayers

Cut simple flame shapes from yellow, orange and red paper. Give each person a shape and explain to them that when God's Holy Spirit first came, it was as if tongues of fire were reaching out and touching all the people. It wasn't the kind of flame that burnt people, but more like a flame that filled people with the warmth and love of God, a flame which fired up their hearts with courage and enthusiasm.

God sent his Holy Spirit to help people live as Christians. Today the Holy Spirit can help people pray and praise. He can help people tell others about Jesus. God sent us his Holy Spirit to dwell in us and to be our special helper. Encourage everyone to use their flame shapes to write a prayer thanking God for his wonderful gift. Stick the finished prayers onto a dark background to look like one big flame. Explain that as the Holy Spirit helps us more and more people can be fired up with the love of God.

This can also be done by inviting everyone to draw around their hand on yellow, orange or red paper, cutting them out and writing a short prayer on the hand. The finished prayers can then be stuck onto a dark background to look like one big flame.



Remembrance poppies

Give everyone a red and white paper poppy. Invite people to write a prayer of remembrance on the red poppy and a prayer for peace on the white poppy. Stick the prayer poppies onto a large card cross. You could have a cross of remembrance and a cross of peace.