

Children's liturgy – The Ascension of the Lord (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: colouring pencils and pens

Song suggestions: Give me joy in my heart (190, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful - Taizé (308, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Christ is alive, with joy we sing (107, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus left the disciples and returned to heaven to be with God. And the disciples were filled with joy. Why do you think they were so happy? Let's think a bit more about this today.

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, we know that you are always with us. May we be filled with the joy of your love and try to share this joy with others. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 1-11

Psalm: Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9 r. 6

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: Luke 24:46-53

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

Today we hear how Jesus returned to heaven to be with God. How did the disciples feel when Jesus left them?

Why do you think they were joyful? Why weren't they sad that Jesus had left them?

The disciples knew that Jesus was the Son of God. And that even though he was now with God, rather than on earth, Jesus would always be with them.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves you and is always with you?

Can you remember the last time that you were really happy? When you were filled with joy? What was it that made you so happy? What does happiness feel like?

Can you remember the last time you made someone happy? What did you do or say? And how did you feel when you saw that you had made someone happy?

Children from 10 schools in the Salford Diocese took part in a concert. Each school choir sang a song or hymn, and then at the end all the choirs sang together – they sang the song Jambo Bwana, along with some children from Kibera, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

All the songs were about the good things of the world that God has given us. The songs helped to spread the message of how we have to share them so that everyone can have what they need.

How do you think the children and the audience felt at the concert?

The children and the audience really enjoyed the concert. It was very joyful, as one of the audience said:

“It was great to see the children singing with their fellow pupils in Kenya. The church was buzzing with excitement.”

Why do you think this concert was so joyful?

Fabiana lives in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. Her family grows a crop called cassava and makes flour from it. This is very hard work and they don't get much money for it. They also have to chop down more trees to plant more cassava.

CAFOD is helping them to learn new ways of earning money. Marcia, Fabiana's mum, is learning how to make traditional baskets and mats, which she can then sell.

How do you think Fabiana feels about this?

Fabiana is happy to be living in the rainforest and learning new skills which will help to protect it in the future.

(See a picture of Fabiana in the accompanying Photo PowerPoint which you can download and share with the children.)

What makes you happy? What will you do this week to spread happiness to others, at home, at school and around the world?

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

We pray together, knowing that Christ is always with us:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of joy, spreading the message of God's love for everyone. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may live happy and healthy lives free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may spread happiness throughout the world, by being kind and generous and sharing what we have so that all people may have enough. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of joy, we thank you for all the good things you have given us and for the happiness we feel. Help us to share what we have with each other, so that all people may be filled with joy. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back what makes them happy. They could also list the ways that they can bring happiness to others at home, at school and around the world.

Give the children round pieces of paper and ask them to draw a happy face on it. On the back ask them to write or draw what makes them happy and/or how they can share happiness with others.

Ask the children to write a prayer, giving thanks to God for all that makes them happy.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer, ask them to say it together during the week. Ask them to do one thing to try to bring happiness to someone at home, at school or elsewhere during the week.