

Children's liturgy – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Make me a channel of your peace (478, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Peace is flowing like a river (595, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: We are all God's children and we are all part of one big global family. Today we hear about how we must not argue with our brothers and sisters and how, if we do, we need to make peace with them. Let's think about making peace with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

Opening prayer: Loving God, when we do wrong and hurt others give us the courage to admit our mistakes and ask for forgiveness from those we have hurt. Help us to forgive others so that we may all live in peace together. Amen.

First reading (optional): Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 r. 1

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 5:17-37 or Matthew 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

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

Jesus tells us that we must try hard not to get angry with our sisters and brothers or call them names. If we do argue with them we must try to make it up with them and become friends again as soon as possible.

Have you ever argued with someone? Who was it and what did you fight about? How did it make you feel? How did you make up with them? Was it easy or difficult? How did you feel once you were friends again?

We are all part of God's family. That is one big global family that includes all people wherever they are in the world. All these people are our sisters and brothers and so we should try to treat them as we would wish to be treated.

In the global family we are all different. Think about someone you know. How are they different to you? How are they the same as you?

Sometimes people focus too much on the differences between us rather than seeing that we are all part of the same global family. This can lead to arguments and problems. In some cases it can lead to fighting between countries which means that people get hurt and have to leave their homes. How do you think it would feel to live somewhere where there was always fighting?

We are all different but we all have our own special gifts. What is your special gift? We can use these gifts to work together to make the world a fairer place for everyone rather than fighting with people who are different.

Can you try not to argue with or hurt anyone this week? And if someone upsets you, what will you try to do this week?

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

Jesus teaches us not to look just for the differences between us and so we pray together for peace:

We pray for world leaders: that they may seek peace and end war, so that all people may live in peace and safety. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world: that they may use their gifts to make a fairer world and change their lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may forgive those who upset us, accept those who are different and work together for peace and fairness throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of mercy and peace, forgive us when we get angry with others and help us to make our peace with them so that we can all work together to make a better world. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the optional accompanying illustration of an argument. Ask them to draw underneath what they think should happen next.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to go through the week trying not to argue with or upset other people, or to say sorry and make friends with those they have argued with.