

Children's liturgy –The Most Holy Trinity (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: Heart shapes cut out of paper or card, colouring pens, pencils.

Song suggestions: He's got the whole world in his hands (973, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear how much God loves the world and everything in it. Let's listen to find out more.

Opening prayer: Generous, giving God, you loved the world so much you sent us your Son Jesus to show us how to live. May we, too, show our love for the world, respecting and protecting it so that all people may enjoy it now, and in the future. Amen.

First reading (optional): Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

Psalm: Dn 3:52-56. R. v.52

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: John 3:16-18

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

Today we hear that God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world to show us how to live and so that we might have eternal life.

God loves the world and all the people, plants, animals and everything else in it very, very much. And God wants us to love the world too.

We are called to show our love for the world and for all the people who live in it, for all the birds, flowers, trees and animals, for everything that God has created.

Sometimes, we think that because we are young that we can't make a difference in the world. You may think that you have to wait to grow up until people will listen to you. Do you think that is true?

We all have a responsibility to look after the world, to love it and everything in it. Antonia lives in Sheffield. She decided that she wanted to share her love for the world with others. Even though she was nervous she stood up in front of her parish community and talked about her work as a CAFOD volunteer in her school. Everyone was inspired by her courage and they all helped to make her fundraising a success. Her love for God's world and God's people has shown other people how they can help.

You can share more information about [Antonia's story](#) with the children, if you have time.

What will you do this week to show your love for the world?

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

We pray to God, who loves the world:

We pray for world leaders: that they may make wise decisions for the good of all people and for the earth. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people, especially those who are poor: that they may know that they are loved by God and that together we may all show our love for the world and each other. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be inspired to show our love for all and do all that we can to respect and protect God's wonderful world. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, teach us how to love the world as you do and to care for and respect the environment so all living things, now and in the future, can live in harmony together. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to discuss the different ways the children in the picture are showing love for our world. Ask the children to write or draw on the back how they will show their love for the world in the coming week.

Give the children heart-shapes cut out of paper and ask them to write or draw on them how they will show their love for the world in the coming week. Or ask the children to write a prayer of thanks and praise to God for the love that God has shown to the world.

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 at home during the week. Ask them to do at least one thing during the week to show their love for the world.