

Children's liturgy – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: white

Song suggestions: God is love, his the care (Laudate, 794)

Though the mountains may fall (Laudate, 785)

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus prayed for his disciples – asking God to protect them and to help them to follow his word. Let us think a bit more about this means for us today.

Opening prayer: Loving God, watch over us, keep us from harm and help us to follow your word and go out into the world to share it with others through our actions. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Psalms: Ps 102:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 r.19

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 17:11-19

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

In today's gospel Jesus is talking to God. He is praying.

Do you pray? What do you pray for or about?

Jesus is asking God to help the disciples, to help them to follow his word and to protect them from harm.

Jesus knows that he will be leaving his disciples and that it will be hard for them to be without him.

But he has also given his disciples a very special job to do and he wants them to carry on doing this, even after he has gone away.

What job does Jesus want his disciples to do?

Jesus wants his disciples to follow him, to love everyone just like Jesus loves us, and to encourage others to do the same.

Do you think Jesus has a special job for us to do as his followers? What do you think that job might be?

As followers of Jesus we are called to share God's love with others. How do you think that we can do that?

We can share God's love by caring for one another, by helping each other and by trying to make sure that all people have a happy life and become the best that they can be.

Ngoun Phalla lives in Cambodia. She has had some very sad and difficult times in her life. Yet despite this, Phalla tries to help other people.

"Help starts with love," she told us, "it's as simple as that." Phalla, helped by CAFOD, looks after children whose parents have died and who have nowhere else to go.

Phalla wants to be able to give the children she looks after a good start to life. She provides a safe and caring home for children who have nobody else to look after them.

Phalla is helping these children to try and reach their potential. She is making a real difference in their lives.

How do you think that you can help others – near or far away – this week? How will you show that you are following Jesus, listening to his word and sharing God's love this week?

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

We know that it is not always easy to follow Jesus, and so we pray...

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired by Jesus and make the right decisions for the good of all people, even when it is hard. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a shining light in the darkest times, bringing help and comfort to all those in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our friends, family and parish: that we may always follow Jesus, respecting and caring for all people. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of all people, move us to follow your Son, to share your love with others as we try to help anyone who needs it, and work together to make the world a fairer place. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Activity suggestions:

Ask the children to draw a picture of what they will do this week to show that they are following Jesus, and how they will help others whether near or far away.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to do one thing over the coming week to show that they are following Jesus, listening to his word and sharing God's love.