**Children’s liturgy for Easter Sunday (Year C)**

**Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: white/yellow

Props: fresh flowers, plants, bright colours/decorations; chocolate eggs/Easter baskets

**Song suggestions**

Now the green blade rises (278, Laudate)

This is the day that the Lord has made (465, Laudate)

Thine be the glory (287, Laudate)

**Welcome**

What special day is it today? Happy Easter! What are we celebrating? New life…Christ is risen!

**Opening prayer:**God of wonder, we rejoice because Christ is risen and we know that all things are possible for you. Bring us new life and help us to make our world a better place for everyone. Amen.

**First Reading (optional):**Acts 10:34, 37-43

**Psalm:**Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, r 24

**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 20:1-9

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

Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb where Jesus’s body has been laid, but the stone blocking the entrance has been moved. She thinks that someone has moved Jesus. How do you think this makes her feel?

She runs back to fetch Simon Peter and John and tell them that Jesus has gone. When they arrive at the tomb they see that it is empty except for the cloths that the body had been wrapped in.

The disciples realise that Jesus has risen from the dead and they believe in him.

Jesus is risen from the dead, giving new life to us all. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is risen?

Easter is a time of great joy and celebration. It is also a time of great hope, because the resurrection of Jesus shows us that nothing is impossible to God.

It is a day for fresh starts and new beginnings, knowing that Jesus is risen from the dead and will always be with us. And so today we are filled with joy and we look to the future with hope.

Hope is not just about wishing for things to get better without doing anything about it. We have been told that a person “who has hope lives differently”. They have “been granted the gift of new life.” (Pope Benedict, Spe Salvi)

We live differently because we are trying to change the world, so that it becomes a place where everyone has the chance to live free from poverty. Even when it is very difficult, we cannot give up, because we have hope.

What makes you joyful this Easter? And what is your hope for the world?

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

In joy and giving thanks, we offer our prayers together today:

We pray for all the leaders of nations: that they may renew their efforts to bring peace and fairness to the world. Lord, in your mercy…

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may be filled with hope for the future and inspired to work together to make this hope a reality. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may always spread joy and love to others and never lose hope of a fairer world for all. Lord, in your mercy…

**Closing prayer:**Risen Christ, we give thanks for the new life you have given us. Show us how to live in hope and make a change, so that all people may live in peace, free from poverty. Amen.

**Activity suggestions**

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration and on the

back to write or draw what makes them joyful and what their hopes are for the

world.

Ask the children to write an Easter prayer.

Ask the children to tell their grown-ups all that they have heard and thought about during the liturgy. Ask them to look out for signs of hope and new life in the week ahead, and to do what they can to try and make their hopes a reality.