

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 (898, Laudate)

Peace is flowing like a river (902, Laudate)

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 help us to be brave and say sorry. Help us to 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.*

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 or Matthew 5:20-24, 27-28, 33-34a, 37. Below is the shortened version.

"I tell you, then, that you will be able to enter the Kingdom of heaven only if you are more faithful than the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees in doing what God requires.

"You have heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not commit murder; anyone who does will be brought to trial.' But now I tell you: whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial, whoever calls his brother 'You good-for-nothing!' will be brought before the Council, and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell. So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back to offer your gift to God.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But now I tell you: anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her is guilty of committing adultery with her in his heart.

"You have also heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not break your promise, but do what you have vowed to the Lord to do.' But now I tell you: do not use any vow when you make a promise. Do not swear by heaven, for it is God's throne;

"Just say 'Yes' or 'No' – anything else you say comes from the Evil One."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

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? How did it make you feel to argue with them? 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 people are our sisters and brothers and God asks us to try to treat them as we want to be treated.

In our global family we are all different. Look at the person sitting next to you. How are they different to you? How are they the same as you?

Sometimes people spend too much time thinking about 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 war or 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 a war? Do you know anyone who has had to leave their home and move to somewhere safer?

We are all different but we all have our own special gifts. What is your special gift? Are you good at sharing? Are you good at making friends? Are you a brilliant singer, dancer, builder, scientist?

We can use our special gifts to work together to make the world a fairer place for everyone rather than fighting with people who are different.

This week, can you try not to argue with or hurt anyone? How will you try to make peace with others 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 to love one another 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...

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may say sorry to people we upset, 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

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

Encourage the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today with their grown-ups. Remind them to go through the week trying not to argue with or upset other people, just because they are different. Encourage them to try and make peace with others where they can.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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