



## A LIFE OF SERVICE: *JESUS*

Collective Worship  
Spring Term 2021

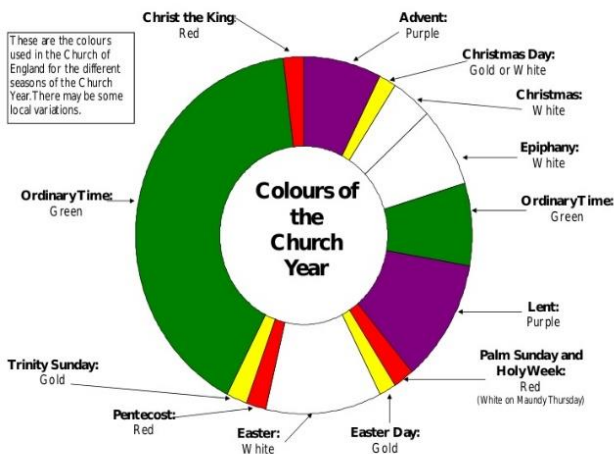
These teacher notes and the accompanying presentation are designed to support you in exploring the concept of Christian service with pupils. This act of collective worship focuses on the Christian idea of Jesus as the Servant King. This act of collective worship could be done live, with each teacher delivering from their own classroom, or it could be recorded by the head teacher or senior leader and shared with each class or bubble remotely.

Collective worship in school should be **inspiring, inclusive and invitational**. Adults leading worship should feel free to adapt these materials so that they are comfortable and they are well-matched to your own context. For guidance on collective worship see:

[http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document\\_library/UDR02852.pdf](http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document_library/UDR02852.pdf)

**Pre-Collective Worship Task:** Spend some time talking about 'service'. Who serves you in the school day? This may include talk about crossing personnel, teachers, TAs, dinner ladies and canteen supervisors, pupil leaders, school club leaders, visitors, etc. Do all these people do the same job or use the same skills? Talk about how everyone uses their skills in different ways to support the school community.

**Worship Table:** You will need a green cloth on your altar table to show we are once again in 'ordinary time' in the liturgical calendar: green for growing!



**Advent & Lent: Times of preparation & patient waiting**

**Celebration Days: Times of joy & light**

**Festival Periods: Christmas and Easter**

**Holy Week & Pentecost: Times of suffering and times of joy**

**Ordinary Time: A time for growth**

You will also need 3 candles to light to represent the 3 persons of the Trinity.

**Preparation and Resources:** You will need the 3 candles and the PowerPoint presentation.

## The Main Content:

### Welcome

Light each of the 3 candles as you say the welcome.

*We gather together in the name of:*

- *God the Father, who Christians believe sent His son*
- *Jesus the Son, who is known as the Servant King*
- *The Holy Spirit, who inspires Christians to do good deeds*

Alternatively, you may want to start with a Christian blessing from the Church of England such as:

*May God give to you and to all those you love  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next  
Amen*

or

*The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.  
Amen*

You can also use something simple such as:

*We gather together to meet as our school family  
We all come together as important parts of our school community  
We gather to meet together with God*

*Today we will begin our series of collective worship that will focus on the life of service that is shown by Jesus and lived out by many Christians. It is ordinary time again, symbolised by our green cloth. This is a time for growing. Serving others is a way in which Christians can grow as people and in their faith.*

## **Learning**

Show slide 3. These are all images showing Jesus as the 'Servant King'. Ask pupils if they recognise the part of Jesus' story that is shown here. These images all show Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. This is a powerful illustration of incarnation- God made flesh and dwelling in humanity, washing the dirt from the feet of His friends.

Show slide 4. Jesus is often called the Servant King. Even though Christians believe he was the Son of God, his life on Earth was characterised by humility and serving others. This is particularly shown in 3 stories from the Bible, shown in the 3 images on the right of this slide. Read these stories or ask 3 different pupils to read one each. You can use the text below or your own Bible choice. There are also plenty of cartoon or dramatised versions of the stories available as video clips.

## **Matthew 14:14-21 The Feeding of the Five Thousand**

**14** *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*

*15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."*

*16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

*17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.*

*18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

### **Luke 19:28-38 The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

*28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.*

*29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord needs it." 35 Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 38 saying,*

*"Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!"*

### **John 13: 1-5, 12-17 Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

*3 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

*2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel*

*around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

Invite 3 pupils to represent Jesus in these 3 stories and create a tableaux showing him in these scenes of servitude. Pupils engaging remotely at home may want to move between 3 representations of Jesus. As the pupils are assembled, show slide 5 and read the two Bible verses aloud slowly. Jesus said that in the Kingdom of God the opposite of what happens in the world is true. In the world, the servants are not the kings and queens or the powerful leaders. But in the Kingdom of God the powerful and strong, the first amongst the people, are the servants of all. Jesus showed that by his example. Even though he was God and a king, he served the people and his disciples like he was their servant. This is why he said, the last shall be first and the first shall be last! (Matthew 20:16).

Show Slide 6. Serving others is right at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. It is a very important thing that a Christian can do in their relationship with God and with other people. Serving others is how love is shown. These are some of the ways we can all serve each other and the people in our communities, our country and the world, no matter what we believe. Sometimes we don't know people personally but we can serve them through giving money, through our prayers for them or supporting charities and organisations in other ways. Move on to Slide 7. Serving God is not easy if we decide that is what we want to do. Jesus told his disciples that it isn't about getting a reward here for helping people. Jesus said the reward is in heaven.

## **Reflecting**

Move on to Slide 8. During the Coronavirus Pandemic we have seen many people serve their communities in ways that are sacrificial and put other people before themselves: delivery drivers, nurses and doctors, supermarket workers, carers and teachers and teaching assistants. Many of these people would never have been thought of as heroes before this pandemic, but through this time it has become clear that these are the people who have taken care of others, especially when people have been scared, alone, sick and anxious. They have acted in ways like Jesus. Invite pupils to take a moment to look at the images and think about the people they know who have been Covid-19 heroes and served their communities. It may be someone in their family.

Show slide 9. Grown ups aren't they only people who can serve. As pupils, you have your chance to serve too. You can show 'courageous advocacy'. This is when you are brave and courageous, ignoring all obstacles that may be in your way, in order to stand up for and support people who need help the most. Invite pupils to discuss ways in which they can do that. You may want to link this to your school vision and your school values, or work you are already doing. *What can we do and why do we do it?*

## Responding

WWJD- What Would Jesus Do is a phrase that Christians often like to think about. The shortened version can be found on bracelets and stickers, reminding Christians to stop and think about how Jesus would act and what he would do when he saw someone in need.

Remember, the Bible says the reward for good deeds is not here but in heaven. You can serve others in secret. Think about the ways in which you can help others. It may be people you know or those you don't know, such as through supporting charity work. Spend some time in quiet reflection deciding on how you might serve.

Finish with this prayer or one of your own wording:

*Dear God,*

*Jesus was known as the Servant King. From his life we can see many ways in which we can copy his example and serve others. Please help us to take every opportunity to help those who need help, to be a voice for those who are struggling with poverty, hunger and homelessness, and to do what we can, when we can, to make life easier for others. Make us bold and courageous in our serving.*

*Amen.*

Alternatively, you may wish to end with an Anglican liturgical prayer:

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.*

*Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.***

*We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen*

You may want to listen to the hymn, [The Servant King by Graham Kendrick](#) , to conclude your worship.

**Post-Collective Worship Task:**

Set up a 'Secret Service' campaign in school for the week following this act of collective worship. Pupils can be challenged to complete acts of service for others in secret. They will not tell anyone else what they have done but there may be 'Service Spotters' who can share where they have seen others serving, or those who have been on the receiving end of being served may want to talk/write about how it made them feel.

Send home some talk homework for families: *Today we have been thinking about serving others and Jesus' example as the 'servant king'. How can our family serve each other and the people who live around us?*