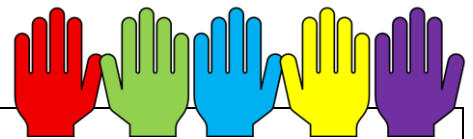




11. Chain of love



Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. We begin this academic year with a reminder that it's good to be grateful. Research reveals the importance of gratitude even in the midst of adversity: that being aware of each day's 'blessings' can counteract anxiety, and so this term, we want to encourage schools to continue to do this through their collective worship. We provide a script with reflective ideas for classroom use and PowerPoint; both have additional content that you may wish to spread across the week and use in classrooms to ensure that you are meeting the requirement for daily collective worship and to support the spiritual flourishing of your whole school community.

You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This collective worship marks the end of the series 'Count your blessings', before we embark on the season of Advent. The idea was sparked from a BBC assembly song with the same name – and aims to focus children on beginning and continuing the chain of love, little acts of kindness, over the coming weeks. The resources suggest making hand shapes, but you could easily cut strips of paper and begin a 'paper chain of love'! It might save you some Christmas decorating time as well! Even better if you use strips of old wrapping paper to recycle them....**



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference how your school's vision & values help you to focus on being grateful, giving thanks for all that we might consider our 'blessings', as we draw close to the end of this series and move into Advent.

How might this link with the Guildford Diocese spirituality offer?



This icons in this section show how the collective worship theme links with the elements of **self, others, beauty** and/or **beyond**

-  **That love is an essential part of being a human being**
-  **We can express love towards others in many different ways – and how we do this depends on who is receiving it as well as how we like to give love to others.**
-  **The beauty of love as an emotion and an act of service to others**
-  **That love often transcends human understanding; that for some, love for God is important, which is shown in different ways, including through loving others.**

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in bold show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. To help any children with visual timetabling, we include an icon for each different part of this collective worship in the top right corner of each slide.
- You will need 8 paper hand shapes / *strips* for the assembly, with the words from p. 5-8 printed on them. The resources include 8 hand shapes and some blank shapes for you to use to make your own. Alternatively, children could draw round their own hand and then cut it out. With older children, you might want to use blank hands and take ideas from them, rather than use the suggestions given in these resources.
- You can find the song, '**Chain of Love**', used in these resources [here](#) on the BBC Schools website. The words are referred to during the assembly, as well as words from Mother Teresa. We recommend that you play the song as you gather. The link takes you to a version that has words and music on screen.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Rising hearts stilling exercise

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

As you sit quietly here, watch the hearts as they grow.....**PAUSE**

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to watch....**[PAUSE]**

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....**[PAUSE]**

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today....**[PAUSE]**

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will..... **have a challenge.....think about some words together....and then reflect on what they might mean for us here in this school community.**

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

- **Slides 2/3:** Use the greeting to your school community – there are two slightly different versions from the point of view of the leader; choose which best fits your school's context. One uses words adapted from [Psalm 118:24](#)



- **Leader:** This is a day that God has made!
- **ALL:** We will rejoice* and be glad* in it!

OR:

- **Leader:** Today is a brand new day.....
- **ALL:** May we be a blessing to each other!

*There are different BSL signs for rejoicing and joy/gladness. View them here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/rejoice>
 Blessing: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/blessing> (1st video)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4: How far can you reach?** Let's start with a challenge: who can reach the furthest, like this....? *[stretch arms out sideways. Choose a few children to try, and compare their reaches]*
 How about another challenge? Who can reach from one side of the room to the other – let's try.....
 Is there a way we can do it? *[Ask for some suggestions – someone might just realise that if you were able to join hands, your reach can go a lot further! If not, then make the suggestion yourself. Hold hands to make a chain to show how this would work.]*
- **Slide 5:** I wonder whether you noticed some of the words in the song that was playing as you came in? The chorus says: 'Circle the world with a chain of love'. Can we do *THAT*?!!!....
- **Slide 6:** One of my very favourite people is Mother Teresa, who always had time for other people and lived her life amongst the poorest people in the world. We heard these words of hers a few weeks back...when we were thinking about peace.
- **Slide 7:** She also spoke these words: 'Good works are links that form a chain of love'. We're going to spend some time today thinking about this idea. I wonder what you think Mother Teresa meant by 'good works'? And how they might form a 'chain of love'? *[Spend some time talking and sharing your ideas together, using talking partners if possible so that every child gets to contribute]* The small, thoughtful acts of kindness that we do for others transform our world and make it a different, more loving place, to live in.
- **Slide 8:** In the Bible, the special book for people who are Christians, there are many stories showing how Jesus lived his life putting other people first. Mother Teresa copied his example. Jesus spent time with sick people....and poor people, the people that no-one else were bothered with, and he taught his disciples, those people who learned from him like you learn from your teachers, to live their lives the same way. He once told them that 'each time you do these things to anyone, it's as if you're doing them to me'.
 Jesus' followers did what he said, and by following his example, they did indeed change their world. The first followers of Jesus began this 'chain of love'. It has been continued by others, including Mother Teresa, and is still circling the world today!
- **Slide 9:** We're going to make a picture of this together now, using lots of hands / *a paper chain*. On each hand / *strip*, I've an idea for something you might do to begin that 'circle' around the world. *[With older children, use the blank hands / strips and take their own idea. As you read out each, display it so that it's touching fingers with another (or staple it into the paper chain). If you're leaving some blanks for children to add their own ideas onto, then explain this at this point during the assembly.]*

Slide 10: Responding (and words for worship)

We're going to have some quiet, thinking time now. You might wish to close your eyes to help you think.....

I'm going to read out what's written on our handprints / *chain* again now. As I do, think about how you might change the world this week, and start that chain of love circling around the world!
[read your chosen handprints / links, leaving a pause between each for children to think]

Many people believe that doing these things is not always easy – it's often much easier to do the things that we want to do than think of ways of putting other people first. And so, I'm going to pray, and ask God to help us. If you'd like to make the prayer your own, then you can join with me by saying 'Amen' at the end.



Slide 11: Prayer

Dear God

We thank you for the people who are a part of our lives whom we can show love and care for.

Help us, this week, to think of ways to put other people first, and to begin the chain of love that will circle the world.

Slide 12: Amen

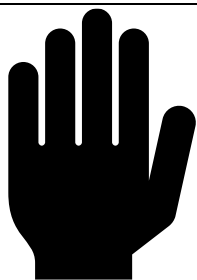
To listen to & sing:

As you gather, play the Out of the Ark song '[Chain of Love](#)'. If you want something catchy just to dance along to at the end, there's another song listed in the resources below that will do the job!

Slide 13: Sending

Leader: As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

All: We will remember with thanks.



Slide 14: Reflection areas

Provide paper for children to draw around & cut out their own hand, or print/cut more of the hands used for the main collective worship, using the template on p. 4

Think: What might you do this week to continue the 'chain of love'?

Do: Write or draw your idea on a hand shape and add it to the chain.

Talk: At the end of the week, talk about your class chain of love. What difference has it made to your school community?

Further ideas to build spirituality in your classroom reflection areas:

- **Continue adding to the chain of love** during the coming week. You can add ideas as you think of them, or nominate the acts of others that you have witnessed. Don't forget to take a photo for your SIAMS scrapbook! There is a list of ideas from <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/blog/random-acts-kindness>.
- **Watch this video, 'Pay it forward'** and talk together about how the good deeds created a chain – actually a circle! – of love. It's worth emphasising that none of these small acts were planned – they were performed by ordinary people having their eyes open to the need around them.
- **Invent some actions** to go with the chorus of the '[Chain of love](#)' song. At the moment, when you might not be singing in school, actions are a great way to join in together.
- **Listen to this song** by Watoto Children's choir, called '[We will go](#)'. One of the lyrics says, "I will be your hands and feet". I wonder what you think this means? Do you think that by being kind people can be God's hands and feet, spreading kindness and love to others?
- **Use the words from this slogan [right] on a poster** and decorate it with the many different ways in which people can be kind to each other.



In a world where
you can be
anything.
BE KIND.



Print these onto coloured card



'Count your Blessings'

Autumn 2026 ©

Diocese of
Guildford
Transforming Church
Transforming Lives



**say
something
encouraging**

**invite
someone
lonely to
play**





**play
someone
else's game**

**do what
you've been
asked to do**





**offer
to
help**

**listen
when
others
speak**

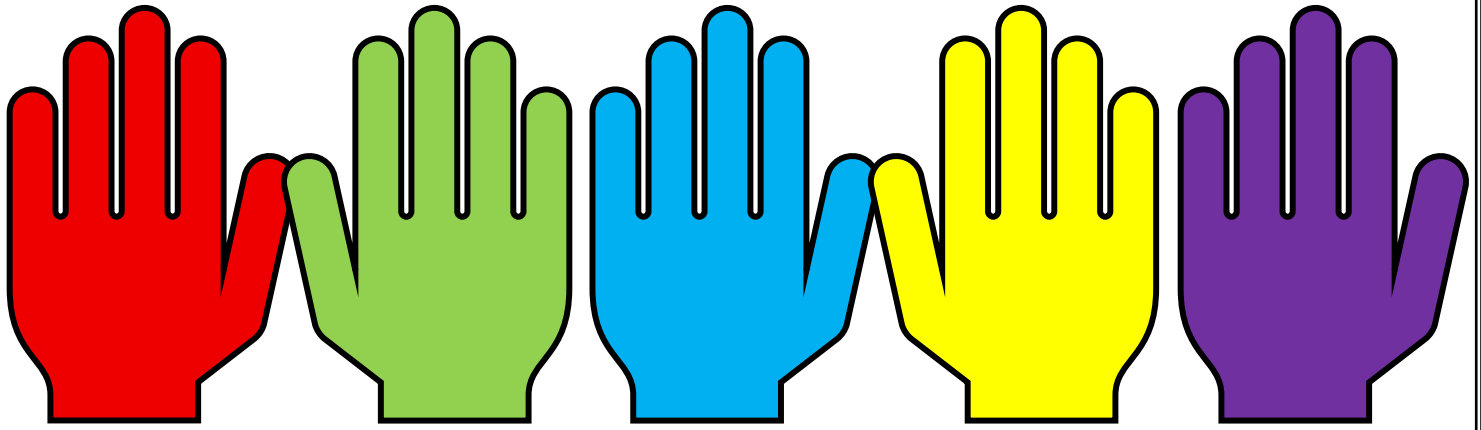




**be
patient
with others**

**pick
something
up**





‘Circle the world with a chain of love.’



What might you do this week to continue the ‘chain of love’?



Write or draw your idea on a hand shape and add it to the chain.



At the end of the week, talk about your class chain of love. What difference has it made to your school community?

