



3. Whose job is it?

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 helps us to reflect on the beauty of the world around us, and the need for us all to take our stewarding responsibilities seriously. Stewarding – taking care – of the world in which we live, which Christians (as well as Jews and Muslims) believe God gave to humanity to treasure and look after. After recent evidence during lockdown, we know that as human beings, we perhaps need to rethink how we do this, so this collective worship reminds us of our responsibilities and asks us to consider 'What next?' And it also gives children opportunity to reflect on the wonder and the beauty of the natural world...***



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

Use this section to reference your school's values with the idea of **stewarding the earth**, especially if you have school-based initiatives that are more familiar to children.

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**

 **What we each find beautiful in the world around us**

 **How we might show environmental care for the beauty of the earth – and how working together makes a difference!**

 **How the beauty of the earth makes us wonder**

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 can view a short news item relating to the Venice waterways in lockdown (2020), here:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-europe-51943104>

Gathering:

Slide 1: Welcome stilling exercise – falling water & nature sounds

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, watch the waterfall and the clouds, and listen to the sound of nature.....[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.....and think about the beauty of the natural world around us.... [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 quiz.....watch a video.....share a short story together, and then think together about what it might mean for our school community.**

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

- Slides 2/3:** Teach this new 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. The words are adapted from [Psalm 118:24](#)
- Leader:** **This is a day that God has made! OR Today is a brand new day!**
- ALL:** **We will rejoice* and be glad* in it!**

*There are different BSL signs for rejoicing and joy/gladness. View them here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/rejoice>



Engaging:



- **Slide 4: Whose job?** Show the pictures, asking children a variety of questions about the roles and responsibilities of each occupation. In this way, you can make the challenge age-appropriate.
- **Slide 5:** This term, we are thinking about our blessings – all the good things in our lives.
- **Slide 6:** You might recall that one of the things we said we were grateful for last week was our beautiful world. We're going to watch a short video of some things we might consider 'blessings; in our natural world now...As you watch and listen, see if you can see something that you agree is wonderful!.....[click on image and it will link to the video.]
So, what did you spot – or what wasn't there that you'd like to have seen?.... [Use talking partners to get more discussion going – but keep it short!]
- **Slide 7:** 'We're going to share a story together now about someone who was given a job to do: listen carefully to see if you can spot what it was.... The story comes from the very beginning of the book that Christians call the Bible, but that is also found in the Torah and the Qur'an [use script on p3]
- **Question:** Did you spot what the job was? (there were 2 actually! – to look after the world and care for it, plus naming the animals) The job given to Adam and Eve in the story is something that people all around the world believe we should still be doing now: caring for our world. There are many different beliefs about how the world came to be, but whatever you believe, there is no doubt that it is still very beautiful, despite the many things that humankind has done to harm it, sometimes without thinking[Slide 8: show pictures] We know that scientists have proved that we can have a bad – or a good – impact on our environment – and we have seen pictures that show the difference we can make in quite short spaces of time, such as here....
- **Slide 9:** Six years ago, when our world was in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was very little traffic, anywhere – in the air and on the waterways as well as on the roads. In Venice where water traffic had disappeared, fish miraculously reappeared in places where there had been too much pollution for fish before! So, we know that we can make a difference if we all work together.
- Let's remind each other of some things that we could do that show that we ARE caring for our world [there are some picture suggestions on Slide 10]
- **Slide 10: Ways to help**
 - recycling
 - turning off lights and appliances when they're not needed
 - using less plastic e.g. using a refillable water bottle
 - using cars less
- I wonder how many more we could think of in our classes this week?..... [These could lead into the Earth Promises activity (p2)]
- **Slide 11:** For Christians, these words, which we heard in our story, are one of the reasons why they might be concerned to care for our planet. And across religions and beliefs, people would agree that caring for our world is OUR job – and that we need to take this responsibility more seriously if we want to slow down climate change and ensure that our planet has a good future.... Our world is still a **beautiful place**, despite the many challenges it faces, and we all know that we want it to be beautiful for many generations to come.

Slide 12: Responding (and words for worship)

Let's be still and quiet together now....

...We've been thinking today about our wonderful world....

....I wonder which thing in our world is your very favourite thing?.....

....picture that thing in you mind now, and think about how you would feel if it wasn't there any more...

...we've heard the story from the Bible about how God told Adam and Eve to care for the world....

...I wonder what you think about this important job?.....

....in the quietness, think about something you might do to show you are caring for our world....

....and perhaps make a promise to yourself or to God to take action whenever you can....

I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, as I ask God to help us to put some of these ideas into practice. Make the prayer your own if you'd like to...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.



Slide 13: Prayer

Creator God

Thank you for the world you made – and the job you gave to Adam, to Eve and to us to look after it.



Help us to do whatever we can to show that we are taking our responsibilities seriously. Help us to care for your world, as you asked us to.

Slide 14: Amen

Songs to sing:

[One world](#) (NBD) or [Creator God](#) (NBD) or [Chain of love](#) (BBC)

Slide 15: Sending

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

All: May we take care of our wonderful world: it's our job!



Slide 16: Reflection areas

Make an **Earth Promises** box out of recycled materials and leave slips of (recycled) paper on which children can write their own 'Earth Promise' to post into the box.

Think: What do you think about this important job? What promise might you make to care for our planet at school or at home?

Do: Write or draw your thought on a slip of paper and post it into the box.

Talk: How can we help one another and work together?

Additional ideas to build spirituality:

- Go outside for some 'Wild Reflection Time'. Lie on the grass if you can, watch clouds, listen for the sounds of nature, watch insects at work or just enjoy being still and quiet on your own.
- Find out about Wangari Maathai, a Nobel Peace prize winner, who started the Green Belt movement, or about Isatou Ceesay, the Queen of Recycling, who with other women initiated a plastic recycling project in the Gambia, to generate income for themselves. Both are black women, so a great way for children to challenge stereotypes.
- Create a classroom 'Earth Declaration' for each class member to sign to promise to take action wherever they can, in school and at home. Agree on the wording together. You could also make some reminders to put up in key places e.g. near bins, in your cloakroom etc.
- Create a set of images to accompany the 'What a wonderful world' song. Each group could be given a different verse to explore. There are lots to choose from, copyright-free, on Pixabay: <https://pixabay.com/images/search/>
- If you fancy some indoor gardening, helping children to understand how a terrarium works, try building one inside a clean fizzy drinks bottle: <https://www.bloglovin.com/blogs/crafting-a-green-world-736413/terrarium-diy-turn-an-old-soda-bottle-into-2954563437>
- Encourage children to be agents for change in this important time. There are some good ideas on the Earth Day website <https://www.earthday.org/7-eco-friendly-actions-for-kids-during-the-pandemic/>, with lots of extra links. There are also lots of ideas on the Earth Day sites: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026/>





God said, 'Look after my world: it's your job!'

Earth Promises



What promise might you make to care for our planet at school or at home?



Write or draw your thought on a slip of paper and post it into the box.



How can we help one another and work together?

