

This Week's Worship: The Vine and the Branches

Opening

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

We come together to say sorry

We come together to say Thank you

We come together to ask for God's help

We come together to hear God's story

We come together to celebrate God's love.

Wherever we come together,

God is with us.

God is here.

Saying Sorry

Hold onto a stone and think about things that you have done this week you would like to say sorry for.

God loves us and forgives us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.

For times this week when we have made others sad.

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not helped others

We are sorry.

For times this week when we have not looked after your creation,

We are sorry

For times this week when we have been selfish

We are sorry

Put the stone in a bowl of water

As we leave these things behind, may God forgive us and give us a new, clean start today.

Amen

Saying thank you

To join in you will need: some slips of paper, some pens and an empty jam jar (you can join in without this for the first few weeks but can then join in when you have had the time to put some things in the jar!)

Ask each person to draw or write down on one of the slips something they would like to say thank you for and put it in the jar. As we pray, pull a slip out of the jar and say thank you for what is written on it.

Continue to fill the jar during the week.

God, you are amazing and you have given us good things. We thank you for all your gifts to us.

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...

Amen

Thank you for...
Amen

Continue until everyone has had a chance to say something.

Story and response

Listen to this week's story or read a story from the Bible. This week is the story of Jesus and the disciples in John 10.

I wonder which part of this story you liked the most?
I wonder what surprised you about this story?
I wonder what this story makes you feel?
I wonder where you are in this story?
Do you wonder anything about this story?

Prayers

In the story, Jesus says that God the father prunes branches that grow fruit so that they will grow even more fruit. Pruning means cutting back- not cutting off entirely, but cutting quite a bit of branch away so that something newer can grow. Sometimes we might feel that things are getting cut away from us- we have to stay away from friends and family or we aren't able to do things we would like to, but even though this is hard, we will find later that the experience has helped us to learn new things, try new things and grow stronger, just like new fruit growing on pruned branches. In lockdown I've been so far away from my friends and family, but I've learned new things like how to use a sewing machine and I've also got healthier by starting running again. How have you learned and grown- even when everything has been cut back in the last year? What is the new fruit that you have seen?

You will need: Some pieces of fruit, a knife, a plate.

Cut up some fruit and, as you share and eat it, think about new things you have learned and tried this past year, even though it's been a hard time. What is the good fruit that you can see?

Dear God, thank you that even when times are difficult and we feel that things are being taken away from us, there is always the chance to learn and grow. Thank you for all of the new and different things we have tried this year. Help us to carry on learning and growing and staying close to you, just like the branches stay close to the vine. Amen

Close

Wherever we come together,
God is with us.
God is here.

May God bless us.
May we know that we are loved
May we know that we are cared for.
May we know God's hope.

God is with us
God is here
Amen.

Extinguish the candle.

