

Care for Our Common Home Prayer Service

Lower Primary F – Year 2

Preparation:

- Candle
- Cross

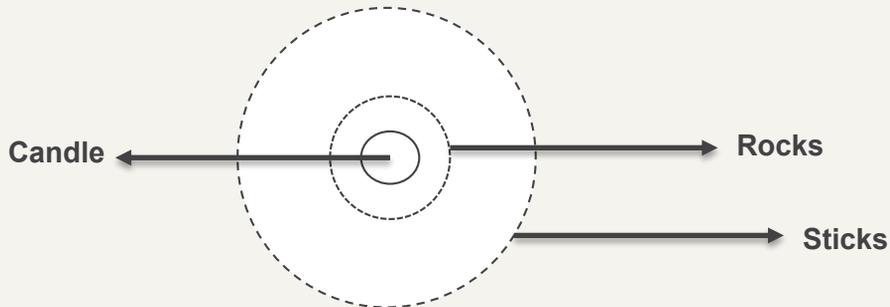
Students collect the following items from nature prior to the commencement of the prayer.

- 3 sticks
- 3 small green leaves
- 1 small rock
- Something they find beautiful.

(Alternatively you could have a collection of natural items that might fit the descriptions above)

Prepare the prayer space. If you think the students need an outline to follow, draw two concentric circles with chalk on the ground or use string. The first circle would be around the candle (light source) and cross. It will need large enough to fit a small stone for each child and the second much larger, creating the outline of earth. A suggested outline appears below.

You may also like to have the following: the liturgical colour of the season, a prayer mat or cloth and a song about creation that the children are familiar with.



We prepare and gather

Gather students around a prayer space.

Light the candle (light) in the centre of the prayer space, follow with a moment of silence and the Sign of the Cross.

We Listen

Play your chosen song.

Invite someone to read Genesis 1:31-2:4

Reader: *A reading from the book of Genesis,*

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: *The Word of the Lord*

All: *Thanks be to God*



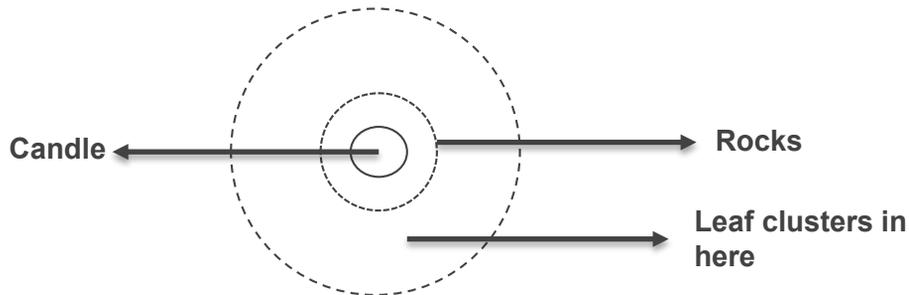
Prayer continued

We Respond

Leader: *We are invited to care for creation, our common home. These past weeks we have been working on ways that we can specifically Care for Creation. Let us create a piece of natural art that reminds us to look after the earth and each other.*

One at a time to place your small rock in a circle around the candle and cross. Each rock represents you and the circle is the whole class.

Outside this circle but inside the larger circle make a little cluster of your leaves – like a little flower.



When everyone has added their leaves invite them to say together **“We will care for creation by... (add in here, whatever it is the class decided to do together)”**

Now place the beautiful thing you found in the centre of your three leaves and say what it is that you are going to do to care for creation. For example: I will pick up rubbish if I see it on the ground.

As a class and at the same time, let's put our sticks end to end (they might need to overlap depending on the size that were collected) to create a big circle – showing us the earth.

Together let's say: This is creation and how we will care for it.

All: *This is creation and how we will care for it.*

Allow quiet time, giving the students some prompts to reflect on. You could invite responses or allow them to think on their own.

Look at what we have made – isn't it beautiful?

We have made a beautiful representation of earth, imagine how God must have felt when God created everything.

God asks us to look after the gift of creation, let us remember all the things we have said we would do to care for creation.

We Go

Leader: *Let us pray together*

*God the Creator,
You made everything we can see, hear, smell, taste and touch.
Help us to care for creation in the ways we have promised.
Guide us in your ways.
We make this prayer in Your name.
Amen*

Conclude your time together with a Sign of the Cross.

Remember to take a photo of your nature mandala with the students hands around the outside. Display the photo in the classroom to remind everyone of the pledges they have made to care for the earth and all of creation.

We love to see photos too. Please email your photo to:

education@caritas.org.au