

## PMR First Third Ministry

### Online Children's Church

Program Outline: June 7, 2020

Based on Genesis 1: 1-2:4a (Revised Common Lectionary)

Purpose of this Outline:

- This Outline is for you to help run a 'virtual Sunday School' program for your Children in your congregation, feel free to use this just as a jumping off point or as a Program outline

Preparations ahead of Online Gathering:

- Families should be sent an email with the Zoom link for the gathering ahead of time
- If there is anything that they need for this gathering, this should be included in the email as well
  - For this Gathering, ask Children beforehand to draw 3 things/people/places that they love about God's creation
- You will need to gather the following supplies: Christ Candle, Lighter/Matches, Family Story Bible
- Security Measures:
  - When planning a Zoom Meeting it is important to remember the following: enable the **waiting room** feature so that you are in control of who you allow into your Zoom meeting, require a **meeting password** for you Zoom meeting so that it is more secure and not at risk for hacking, and email Zoom meeting link to your families and do not post on Social Media sites with the link (it is easier for hackers to find links this way)

### **Program Outline (30 minutes of total programming)**

- **Greeting & Welcome** (4-5 Minutes)
  - Greet each child as they log on to Zoom (by each child's name)
  - Lighting of the Christ Candle (feel free to say the words that you say as you light the Christ Candle)
    - "There was once someone who said and did amazing things and people started to follow him, and as they followed him they just had to ask who he was, and one time when they asked he said, I am the Light of the World."
- **Check in** (2-3 minutes)
  - Check-in Question
    -
- **Gathering Prayer** (3 minutes)
  - Mini- Meditation
    - *Offer slowly and leisurely, allowing time for each action to take place*
    - "Get into a comfortable sitting position. Take three lo-o-ng breaths and become limp and heavy as you can. Forget about everything else, for now, by gently closing your eyes and thinking only about your breath going in and out of you. Then, imagine there is a little light in your heart. Imagine that light growing slowly, bigger, and brighter, filling up every part of your body. Look how bright you are! Like a shining star! Imagine your lovely light growing bigger and spilling out of you onto everyone around you, and into your house, your street, and then your town. Do you feel the happiness of sharing your

lovely light? (*pause.*) Now, when you are ready, wiggle your fingers and toes, and slowly open your eyes and say, “Thank you, God!” and off you go, feeling great!”

- Written by Jani Francis. **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2020, page 59. Used with permission.
- **Share the Story** (4-5 minutes)
  - Read from the “Family Story Bible”, ‘God Makes a World’, pages 10-12
  - Alternative, if you would rather show a video or do not have access to a Family Story Bible, here is the Creation Story told in the Godly Play way:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBZSfu9TyrY>
- **Reflection** (6-8 minutes)
  - Pose some questions to the children and allow them to respond in their own time, by taking turns, or by mutual invitation
    - Questions:
      - What are some wonders of God’s creation?
      - How do we take care of God’s creation?
      - God put us in charge of caring for creation, but is there ways that we have not done that?
      - This week challenge the kids to come up with one way that they can be good stewards of creation for the summer.
- **Closing Prayer** (2 minutes)
  - Repeat after me prayer
    - “Dear God, thank you for your beautiful creation, and help us to love one another and take care of this amazing earth. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”
  - Prayer Walk
    - Encourage Children with their families to talk a walk out in Nature and find places where God might be in creation, the things/people/places they love, and how we might love God’s creation
  - Remind Children that this Sunday is also the 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United Church of Canada, encourage them to sing ‘Happy Birthday’ or maybe make a cake for the church!