Fifth Sunday of Advent: Prince of Peace

Creative Prayer Ideas

Presents

Wrap up between three and five items that can be used to guide a time of prayer. Place the items around the hall and ask people to find them. Before the ‘winners’ unwrap the items, ask them to guess what they think it could be. Once they open it, ask them to think of a prayer inspired by that item. For example: a can of food can be for those who are hungry; a magnet representing a certain place can be about prayers for peace for countries in conflict, etc.

Pass the parcel

Print out strips of a Christmas-themed prayer and place each one within the layers of a parcel. Play some quiet reflective music and fade out occasionally so whoever has the parcel can unwrap a layer and read out the prayer. (Don’t forget that the last line of the prayer must be on the last inner parcel so that it provides an ending, alongside some chocolate coins if desired.)

Orange

Oranges are traditionally associated with Christmas, as during the Great Depression of the 1930s many families didn’t have money to buy gifts, so putting oranges in stockings was considered a treat! Buy a number of satsumas for people to share. As each segment is eaten, ask people to pray peace into different situations. It can be simply that they have a peaceful

Christmas meal as a family, that a friend going through difficulties experiences peace, or wider topics.

Creative Worship Ideas

Missing object

Place ten objects on a table related to newborn babies and elements of the Christmas story such as: a nappy, bottle, toy, pacifier, a miniature sheep, donkey, figures of Mary/Joseph etc. Choose someone to look at the objects for five seconds and then cover them up, removing one of the items. Allow them to look again and figure out which object is missing. Let more people have a go.

Names

Print out a large crown and the words ‘Wonderful’, ‘Counsellor’, ‘Mighty’, ‘God’, ‘Everlasting’, ‘Father’, ‘Prince of’ and ‘Peace’ on eight strips of paper. If there are children, ask them to match the titles of Jesus together and stick them around the crown.

Word shuffle

Give people pens and paper and see how many words they can come up with from the letters of the words PRINCE OF PEACE in two minutes.