Fourth Sunday of Advent: Spreading Peace

Creative Prayer Ideas

Stars

Write on a Christmas star (cut paper, cut tinfoil or a wooden ornament) how you can spread peace to others. Perhaps focus on the stress that the Christmas season can bring to friends and family and how to relieve it.

Peace

In other denominations it’s common for the congregation to ‘Pass/Share the peace’ with each other. Take some time to greet each other prayerfully, blessing them with God’s peace.

Sweet gift

Provide small packets of sweets, and if you have time, attach an accompanying tag with the words ‘Peace to you’. Encourage members of the congregation to ask God who they can share this simple gift with this week, preferably someone that they can witness to. Encourage them to take the sweets and pray for that person, committing to sharing the packet as an act of God’s love.

Ripple effect

Create a wave of peace throughout your church family this week. Do this in whatever way is most suitable for your congregation. A suggestion could be to allocate a different group of people to be prayed for each day of the week: eg on Monday pray for everyone under the age of 18, on Tuesday pray for everyone in the

band, etc. By the time you come back together next Sunday, these prayers of peace will have spread through everyone in the corps.

Creative Worship Ideas

Peace on earth

Ask people to spell out each letter of the word PEACE using their bodies. They can choose for each letter to be acted out individually, in pairs or in a small group together, either lying down or standing! Highlight that if we want peace on earth, we have to move and do something to make it happen.

Joy

Give people stickers/labels with the word ‘Joy’ written on it. Challenge them to mingle around and stick it on someone without them noticing! If the other person spots them, they have to take the sticker back. After a period of time, find out who managed to spread the most joy (has the least number of stickers left) and who received the most joy!

Brainstorm

Creatively brainstorm in small groups how people can practically usher peace into their community, corps, home and beyond in the run-up to Christmas. Ask some people to share with the wider group.

Exciting!

As the excitement of Christmas nears, hide several small Christmas gift boxes containing chocolate treats around the hall, and set some of the younger members of the congregation the challenge of finding as many as they can in two minutes. Hopefully this will create a sense of excitement as they are hunting for the boxes, as well as a ripple effect of anticipation and participation as those around help point out where they might be. Encourage the congregation to share the powerful message of peace this Christmas time and be excited and encouraged as it impacts those around them in a positive way.