Third Sunday of Advent: Peace and Prayer

Creative Prayer Ideas

Baubles

Decorate Christmas baubles with the words ‘Peace’ on one side and ‘Prayer’ on the other. Use glitter pens, or Sharpies, or glitter and PVC glue if you like mess! Add to your Christmas peace tree (First Sunday), or give them to someone and ask what you can be praying for them about.

Candy canes

Give a candy cane to each person. Ask them to choose one stripe, eg red, and follow it slowly with their finger, thinking and praying about our trust and faith in God. Repeat with the second stripe, thinking and praying about our gratitude and praise for God. The two are intrinsically linked, like for Elizabeth and Mary, like prayer and praise.

#PrayforPeace

Encourage those on social media to get their phones out and write on one of their accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc) a prayer of peace for a situation close to their heart, using the hashtag #PrayforPeace. For those who are unable to do this, provide prayer cards and pens.

Every day

Ask people to think of something that they do multiple times throughout the day, like boiling the kettle, walking up the stairs etc, and commit to praying every time they do that activity, helping them bring prayer in to their everyday life.

Creative Worship Ideas

It’s magic!

Display six cards, each with a letter spelling out the word ‘PRAYER’. (You may want volunteers to help.) Move the final R, adding it on top of the first R. Turn the first letter R and the letter Y over, to reveal the letters E and C – thus turning PRAYER into PEACE.

Share

Ask people to move around and share with someone they don’t usually talk to. Give them 30 seconds each to share their testimony of faith, recalling a time of heartache, reflection or celebration and what God did in that situation.

Affirmations

Mary’s song is full of affirmations of what God has done. Encourage people to write on sticky notes their own affirmations of what God has done in their lives or what he means to them, and place these notes on a large piece of paper that can be hung up somewhere as a visual reminder.