

LENT – EASTER 2018

Dear Families,

During the Season of Lent the children will be hearing stories from the Hebrew scriptures (also known as the Old Testament). These stories are about promises from God to Noah and his family and to Abraham and Sarah as well as the promises spoken through the Psalms and by the prophet Jeremiah. The Season of Lent is 40 days long (not counting the Sundays, which are all considered “little Easters”).

Here are the Gathering and Blessing songs that we will be using during this season. You might like to use them at home for family prayer times as well.

Gathering song

(tune: “Frère Jacques/Are You Sleeping”)

(Children repeat the bolded lines.)

God is with us. **God is with us.**
Every day. **Every day.**
God will always love us.
God will always love us.
Thank you, God. **Thank you, God.**

Blessing song

(tune: “Frère Jacques/Are You Sleeping”)

(Children repeat the bolded lines.)

May God bless you.
May God bless you.
Keep you safe. **Keep you safe.**
May God’s love surround you.
May God’s love surround you.
Go in peace. **Go in peace.**

On Palm/Passion Sunday (March 25) children may bring home a “Holy Week Calendar” of readings and reflections which your family might do together.

Following Easter Sunday (April 1) we move into the Season of Easter. This season is 50 days long and the focus will be on Bible stories from the New Testament. Our group will explore stories in the gospels about Jesus’ appearances to the disciples after the Resurrection, and the ways in which Jesus’ friends and followers shared the good news of the risen Christ. During the Easter seasons we will learn from Jesus’ teachings and the witness of the disciples how we too can live as a faithful community of people who share God’s way of love.

You might like to read to read these stories together at home: John 20:19–31, Luke 24:36b–48, John 10:11–18, John 15:1–8, John 15:9–17, and Acts 1:15–17, 21–26. Reading the Bible together suggests that these stories are important to you.

We celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 20, marking the end of the Season of Easter. This is a day to celebrate the Spirit of God and the growth of the Christian community.

We will be praying for each child in our group during these seasons. We ask that your family also include us in your prayers as we prepare for and lead the sessions each week. May these Lenten and Easter seasons be times of spiritual nurture and growth for our group and for your family.

Sincerely,

