

ALL AGE WORSHIP

Call to Worship: Exodus 13 v 20 - 22

GOD went ahead of them in a Pillar of Cloud during the day to guide them on the way, and at night in a Pillar of Fire to give them light; so they could travel both day and night. The Pillar of Cloud by day and the Pillar of Fire by night never left the people.

Opening hymn: Welcome Everybody (Fischy Music) or As Your Family Lord, See Us Here

You may need to do this without singing – in which case use Makaton signing to a backing track, or encourage everyone to look around and try to smile and wave to every other person in the building while the music is played.

Prayer:

God of all, through all time and in all places, in each circumstance and season,
You call us together in this place and welcome us with open arms as your beloved children.
Each one of us is precious to you and called by you.
In this time of great change and uncertainty, you are unchanging and ever faithful.
Through this time together, let us feel you speaking to us, leading us, teaching us,
Filling us with your spirit and strengthening us for the journey ahead.

Song: Be Still and Know that I Am God

You may need to use a recorded version of this song or something similar. You could light a candle as an image to focus on.

Reading: Exodus 14.19-31 (NRSV)

If a second reading is needed, use Romans 14.1-12 (The Message)

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Conversations: Invite two pre-warned members of the congregation to sit at the front (socially distanced) and hold a conversation. Ideally this should be someone under 11 and someone from an older generation.

- Share a little about yourself
- How are things changing for you at this stage in the pandemic?
- What have you learned during lockdown?
- Will you do anything differently or do you want things to be any different in the future than before COVID-19?
- How have you experienced God helping you, speaking to you, guiding you through this time?

Ideally you would get members of the congregation discussing the same questions amongst themselves but this will not be possible with social distancing. Read the questions to the congregation and allow a few moments to consider them. Maybe have two more people ready to do a similar conversation. You could also do a puppet conversation with a child drawn from the congregation, again maintaining social distancing by placing a seat at 2m distance for the child to sit on and using a microphone on a stand.

Song: Up Times, Down Times (Same Boat Music) or Through All the Changing Scenes of Life (first and last verse only)

Prayer time: For each person, prepare a plastic bag with a pen, a piece of tracing paper, an LED nightlight and a small sticky label. These should be prepared three days in advance of the service and placed on seats using gloved hands. Encourage each person to draw or write on their tracing paper the things that concern them right now and the things they are thankful for. The paper should be fastened into a cylinder with the sticky label and then put around the candle to make a pillar of light.

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Education Sunday prayers:

(Ideally these would be read by different members of the congregation leading the prayer for a different group, but this may not be possible – so maybe just ask anyone in that category to stand or wave in their place and ask the whole congregation to Makaton AMEN at the end of each line – two fists, thumbs up – start with fists apart and bring them together in front of you.)

God did not leave His people alone in the wilderness, he stayed with them and led them on

We are a learning people in a time of change.

We pray for everyone who's just starting school or nursery

The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN

We pray for everyone who's going back to school or college

The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN

We pray for all those transitioning to secondary, to college, to uni

The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN

We pray for teachers, tutors, lecturers and teaching assistants

The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN

We pray for parents, waiting anxiously at home

The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN

We pray for admin staff, catering staff, all who keep places of learning running smoothly

The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN

We pray for all who are adjusting to new circumstances

The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN

Let us feel you speaking to us, leading us, teaching us,

Filling us with your spirit and strengthening us for the journey ahead.

AMEN

Lord's prayer

Song: Jesus, Be the Centre (again it may be necessary to have this as an instrumental) or Nothing's Too Big Big Big for his Power (play as a video and encourage socially distanced dancing!)

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Closing prayer

God did not leave His people alone in the wilderness, he stayed with them and led them on
Jesus said, Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

We are a learning people in a time of change.

May the God who calls us, lead us on. Amen

