

## DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

### YEAR 3/TERM 6/WEEK 3 - RESPONDING TO THANKFULNESS

Thankfulness has always been at the centre of the life and worship of God's people. Under the Law of Moses, there were not only sacrifices for forgiveness, there were 'thanks offerings' as well. 'Songs of thankfulness and praise...' are at the heart of Christian worship. Thankfulness is directed towards God who gives and sustains life. Seeing the world as God's creation underpins the way we approach everything in life, seeing it as a gift and not as a right.

For Christians the greatest of all acts of worship is simply called 'thanksgiving' - eucharistia in Greek - thanksgiving for the death and resurrection of God's Son and the way of forgiveness that is opened up. [http://www.christianvalues4schools.org.uk/pdfs/theological\\_backgrounds/Thankfulness.pdf](http://www.christianvalues4schools.org.uk/pdfs/theological_backgrounds/Thankfulness.pdf)

SEAL link - Good to be Me

Values link – Thankfulness

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>A bespoke presentation of pictures on loop could be playing as pupils come in. These could show pictures of the school / community /events/gifts/awards which will remind the pupils of what they might be thankful for.</p> <p><i>We have come together to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our wrongs, that we may give ourselves</i></p>	<p><b>THANKFULNESS TO GOD (whole school)</b> <b>Mark 14:22-23</b> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. For Christians the greatest of all acts of worship is simply called 'thanksgiving'- eucharistia in Greek - thanksgiving for the death and resurrection of God's Son and the way of forgiveness that is opened up. Millions of Christians will go to a Communion Service (Eucharist) every Sunday, in fact some will want to go every day because the service is so important to them. For most Christians, the Communion Service is an important moment when they say thank you to God. To show how important it was to one Christian, share the story of Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon. He wanted to express his faith and give thanks to God by taking Holy Communion on the moon! See page 12/13 of: <a href="http://ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective_worship/documents/10values_001.pdf">http://ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective_worship/documents/10values_001.pdf</a> What does this say about how special this occasion was to Buzz? What does it tell us about how important his faith was? Why was it important to Buzz to say thank you to God?</p>	<p>Ask pupils to think of special times in their life that they would want to celebrate by an act of thanksgiving. What would they do to say thank you?</p> <p>Ask pupils to reflect upon why singing songs and hymns of praise is a good way to thank you.</p>	<p>Make us thankful for what we have received and generous in supplying the needs of others so all the world may give you thanks and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>THANKFULNESS FOR ALL GOD'S GIFTS (whole school)</b> <b>1 Corinthians 10:26</b> This could be the perfect opportunity to have worship outside so the pupils can see God's gifts for real. If possible, make the most the school's spiritual garden or veg patch as part of worship. Seeing the world as God's creation can underpin the way we approach everything in life, seeing it as a gift and a blessing and not as a right. This should apply to everything in God's world including the things that are really easy to overlook! Explain to the children the term 'taking things for granted'. One such thing that might be taken for granted is the potato. Provide a group of children with a variety of potatoes- ask them to describe it as if they didn't know what it was. Potatoes don't look like much- they don't even</p>	<p>The following reading could be used as a stimulus: <i>Psalms 28:7</i> The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give</p>	<p>Let us bless the Lord. <b>Thanks be to God.</b></p> <p>A short ending</p>

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<p><i>to the service of God.</i></p> <p>Or use the following adaptation which has more focus on the Trinity: <i>We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God</i></p>	<p>smell that nice! However, ask the children about all the things they love which come from potatoes! Explain them that we need to be thankful for even the simplest of things. Consider how we would feel if they didn't exist. Ask the children to think of countries who might be grateful of a harvest which had produced potatoes. Saying grace before mealtimes is such an important part of worshipping school's day. It means we are being thankful for something which we could just take for granted. (This week could be a good opportunity to refresh how grace is being said in school and to invite pupils to write their own.)</p> <p><b>SHOWING WE ARE THANKFUL (whole school)</b> Ephesians 5:19-20 This passage from Ephesians gives us ideas as to how we can show God that we are thankful. Is it enough just to say the words 'thank you'? It's a start, but there are lots of other ways!?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Praise and singing is such an important part of worship because it's an emotional and creative opportunity to show that we are thankful to God. Share some of the verses from the pupil's favourite praises or quotes from the Book of Psalms. How do they show thankfulness?</i></li> <li>- <i>If we are really thankful for the world we live in, then we need to show this by looking after it. There are opportunities for eco – schools to discuss here what they have done. However, small acts like picking up litter, turning off taps, or helping to look after animals all show that we are thankful.</i></li> <li>- <i>(older pupils) Jesus said in Acts : it is more blessed to give than to receive. Some Christian show they are thankful for God's generosity by passing this generosity on to others. Ask the children how they feel when they give or do something nice for someone else without expecting something in return?</i></li> </ul>	<p>thanks to him in song.</p> <p><i>Ephesians 5:19-20</i> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p><i>Suggestions for praise:</i> 'Thank you ,Lord for this fine day' 'Jubilate Everybody' ' For the beauty of the Earth'</p>	<p>which turns things on their head - it is usually God who blesses us! These words make us ask the question 'How do we bless the Lord?' The answer of course is through living up to the values that Jesus has taught us, a good thing to remember when we are sent out of worship.</p> <p>Let us give thanks in all circumstances, <b>for this is God's will for us in Jesus Christ</b> <i>1 Thessalonians:5 v 18</i></p>
<p><i>The Lord is with us</i> <b>Let us praise his name together</b></p>	<p><b>BEING THANKFUL FOR OTHERS (class or key stage)</b> <b>Luke 17: 11-17.</b> In this story, Jesus heals 10 people who have leprosy but only one returns to thank Jesus - a Samaritan. Explain to the children how important it is to appreciate the skills and labours of others, especially those who regularly help in school. Do we still remember to say thank you or just like the potato, are they being taken for granted? Ask them to think of specific people who go above and beyond to help the school. Many will do this because of their faith. (KS2 - you could share the concept of Christian Stewardship with older children. People will often give their time, skills and money and not expect anything in return . They will do this as part of the Christian value of service). Ask the pupils to think of ways to express their appreciation and thanks to other members of the community and visitors. These could then be used to develop a special thanksgiving service for the end of term.</p>		