

Switch



to climate justice
all-age service liturgy materials



cmsireland
equipping the church **in mission**

Many of the parishes that use the CMSI Children's Resource hold a special All-Age Worship Service as part of their programme. This gives the whole congregation a chance to find out what the young people have been, or will be, learning about and it provides an opportunity for everyone to get involved.

The following suggestions might be helpful as you put together your service. Even if you aren't able to dedicate a whole morning service to the Children's Resource, perhaps you could incorporate one or two of the ideas in the morning services on each of the four weeks. (Note: The text is available as a Word Doc to enable easy incorporation into your service materials, whether digital or printable).



All-age service material

Introductions

It's worth including a few brief sentences of background and introduction to the **Switched On** resource which looks at ways of living out Galatians 6:2 – how we can bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ. Issues of climate justice and the difficulties for people in Nepal were the focus of study as the young people learnt about how we are all made in the image of God and therefore have inherent worth.

We would encourage you to work with some of the older children to write a few introductory sentences that they can then read out.

Film Clips

If you're able to show videos in your church, why not use one or more of the films from the **Switched On** series, to introduce folk to Nepal. The films are short and can easily be included at any point of the service.

Introduction/Bidding

A sentence to introduce the service:

In our worship today we will hear stories about our brothers and sisters in the Nepal - a place where climate change is causing significant problems but where God's people are reaching out and caring for others, showing God's love in action. As we sing God's praises, hear from God's word and pray for our world, we remember that we are part of a global family, united together by our Father's love.

Prayers

One or more of the following could be included:

Confession

(A prayer from Cornelius Plantinga's *Morning and Evening Prayers*)

God of the good creation: sun, moon, and stars bear witness to your power. The depths of the sea, the roll of the hills, the gentleness of a breeze bear witness to your fertile imagination. The faith of saints, the courage of martyrs, the voices of singing congregations bear witness to your stirring presence. **The whole earth is full of your glory.**

God of the wronged and wounded, some of us live too comfortably amidst grave oppression. We don't ask about it, look into it, fight against it. We are indifferent to it. **○ God, champion of the forgotten, forgive us, we pray, and kindle in us a new hunger for justice.**

We confess to you that we are double-minded people.

We love you, but we love money too.

We love you, but we love worldly comforts too.

We love you, but we love ourselves too.

In our folly, we more often think of ourselves than we think of you. In your mercy, centre our minds on you, so that we are double-minded no more. You want truth within. **Purify our hearts so that, knowing the truth, we may speak it, and, speaking the truth, we may follow up with actions that fit. Amen**

Prayers for Forgiveness [Martyn Goss, May 2016]

Leader : Climate Change is prompted by our sinfulness:

- our greed, gluttony and lust for more
- our pride and arrogance
- our anger, envy and vanity
- our dishonesty and maliciousness
- our indifference and laziness

All : *Creator God, forgive*

Leader : Climate Change is fed by our failure to accept limits:

- of the Earth's capacity
- to consumerism and excessive materialism
- to an economy that demands insatiability
- to our own desires
- to our human aspirations

All : *Saviour God – forgive*

Leader : Climate Change is enhanced by our falling short of our deeper potential:

- to respect all life
- to live compassionately
- to think beyond the short-term
- to seek peace through justice
- to express solidarity with the vulnerable

All : *Inspiring God – forgive*

Leader : Climate Change is addressed when we actively work to change our economic lifestyles:

- campaigning for fairness and equality
- putting community before ourselves
- sharing resources and cooperating together
- acting to regenerate the Earth
- recognising the deep holiness of life itself

All : *Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer God: In the face of Climate Change forgive us our wrongdoings; challenge our apathy; strengthen our resolve; inspire us with hope; and enthuse us with love to make a world of difference now and forever. Amen.*

Collect

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory. **Amen**



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

Prayer: God of Creation and Lord of Life

God of creation and Lord of life, you entrusted us to care for our environment, but in many parts of the world we have failed. Help us to realise how fragile and unstable our surroundings are, because we are not looking after creation. We need to be true stewards and to understand how the most insignificant little flowers, and the tiniest insects, each creature and individual people are all part of a wondrous creation. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

*Loving God, Father of us all, we come to you in prayer, asking that your will may be done in all things. We pray for your Church throughout your world, remembering especially our brothers and sisters in Nepal. As you watch over and protected your servants, may you protect your people in Nepal and in other places where Christians experience hardship and persecution. May they know your presence and your peace. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.***

*Transforming God, we thank you for the work and witness of the Church in Nepal, as they meet people at their point of need. We pray especially for the work of HDCS and SD Church. May you use your people, in Nepal and elsewhere, to bring hope, help and healing to a world in need. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.***

*Sovereign God, we pray for all who lead your Church throughout the world, remembering especially those who lead your Church in Nepal. We ask that you would grant grace and wisdom to those who lead your people today. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.***

*Merciful God, through your son Jesus you have met us, embrace us and transform us. May we be inspired by the global Church, prompted by your Word and empowered by your Spirit, to switch on our own lives and communities. May we reach out in faith to share your transforming power and love with those who are lost, lonely, broken, afraid or in need of help. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us. Amen.***

Blessing

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Bible Readings

Any of the verses that feature in the material for the children and young people could be used in the service. However, using the story of the good Samaritan from **Luke 10: 25-37** would enable the children to participate in the telling of the story through a rendition of their drama piece from session 4 of **Switched On**.

Alternatively, the following passage may be useful: **Mark 12: 29-31** (*love your neighbour as yourself*)

Possible Song/Hymn Ideas

Suggested Hymns and Songs from the Church Hymnal which might be appropriate:

- 50 *Think of a world without any flowers*
- 494 *Beauty for brokenness*
- 499 *When I needed a neighbour, were you there?*
- 500 *Would you walk by on the other side?*

Suggested Hymns and Songs from 'Thanks & Praise' which might be appropriate:

- 45 *Great is the darkness (Come, Lord Jesus)*
- 86 *Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness*
- 150 *There is a higher throne*

Getting the children involved

As well as inviting children to write or read prayers and read Bible stories, the following suggestions will ensure that the service has lots of involvement from the children.

- We would encourage you to invite any older children who have worked through the teen material to share some of their ideas on why it is so important to be proactive in climate justice issues and how we can make a difference from here in Ireland.
- Do an interview with a couple of older children about what they've learnt or what activity they have enjoyed.
- Have children up front to sing a song that ties in with some of the themes in the **Switched On** resource.
- Have one of the Sunday school groups recite the memory verse that they learnt together and sign it for the congregation.
- Invite some of the children to explain how the **memory verse underpinned the learning across the Switched On** series. This could lead into ideas on how we can bear burdens in our own context.
- Some 'show and tell' - with the children walking round the church to show pictures and crafts they have produced during **Switched On**. You could even divide the children up - so they each 'show and tell' to a pew/row or two.

CMSI Speaker

You may want to request a guest speaker from CMSI to come and speak at your All-Age Service or to speak to the adults on one of the Sundays when the children are doing their project in Sunday school.

In addition to staff members, CMSI has a team of volunteers who speak on behalf of the Society at Sunday services and midweek gatherings. Visit the CMSI website or contact the offices for more information or to request a speaker. (The earlier you can make the request, the better).

Other Ideas

- Interview someone from the parish who is involved in mission at home or overseas.
- Explain a bit about the fundraising element of the Children's Resource and encourage people to give through a retiring offering to support emergency relief in Nepal.
- Organise a simple pot-luck lunch for after the service, where everyone brings something to share. You could use this as a fundraising event, or simply to enjoy fellowship together.

For further information, contact CMSI's offices or visit our website - www.cmsireland.org

We'd love to see more parishes developing a partnership link with our partners in Nepal - or indeed with any of CMSI's other global partners. These links are a really effective way to connect with the global Church and to play an active part in global mission. They also provide a means of breathing new life into the mission activities within your own parish.



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission