

God Is Always With US

Collective Worship

Read Psalm 139 v 7-12 which describes God as being everywhere. Note the beauty of the poetry used and ask pupils to come up with a modern form for Christians today such as, 'If I get lost in the city, you are there.'

I can never escape from your spirit!
I can never get away from your presence!
If I go up to heaven you are there;
If I go down to the grave, you are there.
If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.

Look at a few images of Celtic crosses and note the use of circles and intertwined lines which have no beginning or ending. This was the Celtic way of expressing the idea of God always being there and that his love never ends. Ask pupils to draw a circle with a finger on the palm of their hand whilst thinking of a person or situation that needs God's presence. Alternatively, give each pupil a pipe-cleaner and invite them to make a circle to hold while they imagine the person or situation being in the centre of the circle of God's love.

Celtic Christians sometimes would use Caim prayers, pointing as they turned slowly on the spot, as a way of reminding themselves that they were surrounded by God's love. On the next page are two prayers one with the traditional wording and the other focused on Ukraine. As someone reads the prayer, ask pupils to turn 90° with each prayer, all turning at the same time whilst imagining, or even drawing with their fingers, the circle that encloses them. (You could use a compass to work out when pupils will be facing Ukraine)



Circle me Lord
Keep protection near
And danger afar

Be with Ukraine
Keep the people safe
And keep danger away

Be with Ukraine
Give them hope
And keep fear away

Circle me Lord
Keep hope within
Keep doubt without



Circle me Lord
Keep light near
And darkness afar

Be with Ukraine
Show them the light of
your love
So, it drives the darkness
away

Circle me Lord
Keep peace within
Keep evil out

Be with Ukraine
Bring peace
Stop the war

