

Families + friends,

Below is an order of worship you can participate in together as a family. You can do this at any time today. You might be able to do it all at once or maybe your children need to take it one piece at a time. This is an invitation to wonder about who you say Jesus is and what the symbol of the cross means to you.



Light Candles as a reminder of God's presence with you.

Opening Prayer

God be in my head.

God be in my heart.

God be on my left side.

God be on my right side.

God be in my whole life.

Psalm 22 (selected verses)

From God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children

**if you have older children or children who like to read, it is worth reading the entirety of Psalm 22*

My God, have you forgotten about me? Why have you left me all alone?

Do you even hear my cry? Can you hear in my voice how distressed I am?

I cry for you in the day, and I hear no answer from you.

During the night I cry out, and I cannot sleep.

My God, have you forgotten about me?

Why have you left me all alone?

I know that you are the Holy One,
the one all Israel praises.
Those who came before me trusted you and you came to help them.
They cried out to you and you heard their voice.
They trusted in you and were not disappointed.

My God, have you forgotten about me?

Why have you left me all alone?

My soul will live for God;
my children and their children will serve God, too;
they will always be known as God's children.
They will make you known to people who haven't even been born yet.

My God, have you forgotten about me?

Why have you left me all alone?

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 26-27

Children's Storybook Bible by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Takes about 2 minutes to read

I wonder what Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane
I wonder why Pilate wanted to please the crowd
I wonder why we say "Good" Friday
I wonder what you might have said to Jesus on Good Friday
I wonder why the cross is such an important symbol for us
I wonder what you think is going to happen next in this story

Storytelling and Reflection

"Muddle & Mo"

by Nikki Slade Robinson

Takes about 2 minutes to read

Our scripture presents different lenses in how people saw and attempted to understand Jesus' identity. Who is Jesus? A criminal, a king, a radical, a truth teller, a friend?

Pilate remains puzzled, too. Who is this person standing before him? What has he done? The Good Friday story is filled with questions related to the identity of Jesus. Muddle the duck has lots of questions about Mo's identity; Mo just doesn't seem very duck-like for a duck. Eventually, Muddle realizes that Mo isn't a duck at all, but a goat. This text and story invite us to ask questions, to wonder about Jesus, and to affirm our belief in who Jesus is and why God sent him into the world.

I wonder why Muddle thinks Mo is a duck

I wonder if you've ever been mistaken for someone else

I wonder what is the most important thing for others to know about you

I wonder what you like most about people who are different from you

I wonder who you say Jesus is

I wonder who your family and friends say Jesus is

*adapted from *Storypath*

Prayer

From Common Prayer for Children + Families

When Jesus died that day on the cross

all creation together sighed, "This is a great loss."

Time grew empty and the afternoon dark

as the light of the world had not even a spark.

The women stood by at a distance in tears

wondering what would become of their fears.

Fear not, the angels soon will say.

Jesus's death has given us the way.

Amen.

Share any specific prayers and petitions you have as a family.

Say the Lord's Prayer together.

Close your time of worship by extinguishing the candles and observe a few moments of silence.

