



11. Praise!



Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series 'Songs from the heart'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. This week we reflect on some of the many times that David praised God for his creation; the imagery he uses would provide some rich learning in English across your school! We also use one response to Psalm 148, created during lockdown by the children at St Peter's Church in Farnborough, using words and creativity. We hope it might inspire your school community too!*



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference your school's values and the things that are a part of your school's unique vision. This week, the focus is on how David found God through creation, the world around him, which will hopefully build on last week's exploration of the outdoors!

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- Access the video of Psalm 148 here: [Psalm148 | St Peter's Church Farnborough - YouTube](#) We will use this during the collective worship, linked from the PowerPoint, but do use it in your own classrooms as well. Our thanks to the children and to the team at St Peter's for allowing us to use their work!
- We also link to a song written by Christian song-writer Brian Doerkson 'Creation calls', set to some stunning videography, which you may want to use during this week. Please make sure that you view it yourself before showing it to children, so that you can explain that this shows what many Christians (as well as David!) believe about the natural world declaring God's existence as creator.
- **This week, we offer several writing frame models to help you to write your own Psalm: all could be used as a class or individual model. The best example is using the song 'Who made the twinkling stars?' which is especially suitable for KS1 as it focuses on helping them to choose really good adjectives, linking well with your English curriculum. The writing frames could be used like the game consequences where one person writes a line and folds it over then passes it on to the next person who writes the next line etc. Adults can join in too!**

Gathering:

Slides 1-3: Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing; you can view the demos using links under the slide.



Leader: As we gather together,

ALL: ...we bring our hearts.

Leader: As we gather together,

ALL: ...we share our thoughts.

Leader: As community together,

ALL: We serve one another.

Signs for greeting: click on links

Hearts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - heart](#) (or you could use your hands as shown in the image)

Thoughts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - thought](#)

Serve: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - serve](#) (or you could just open your hands in front of you)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4: Hide and seek**

Share some of the wonderful natural hiding places that you may have spotted last week, and if you can, share any photos you took across your school – it will help children connect last week with this week's materials. Ask children if there was anything that especially made them say 'WOW!'

- **Slide 5: Songs from the heart**

Today's words come from across many of David's psalms about the beauty of creation/the natural world [use whichever term you feel more comfortable with] They are brilliant examples of great descriptive writing (which we might learn from!), but also show how David found God through his experience of



nature. I wonder if any of you can identify with this? Let's have a look at what he said. *[use some/all of slides 6-10 to explore with your children, asking them to say what they think David is meaning.]*

- **Slide 6: God stretches out the heavens like a tent. (Psalm 104:2)**
- **Slide 7: You are strong, O God, and your mighty power put the mountains in place. (Psalm 65:6)**
- **Slide 8: You are clothed with glory and majesty. You wear light like a robe....The clouds are your chariot with the wind as its wings. (Psalm 104:1-3)**
- **Slide 9: I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. (Psalm 139:14-16)**
- **Slide 10: The Lord's voice is heard over the sea. The glorious God thunders. The Lord thunders over the great ocean. (Psalm 29:3)**
- **Slide 11: I sing for joy at the works of your hands.... (Psalm 92:8)**
This was David's response to what he saw around him – to give praise to God whom he believed created it all. We'll be using a song at the end of our time together which also does this.

Slide 12: Responding (and words for worship):

As we reflect and wonder together today, we're going to hear the words of another Psalm, and see some children from one of the churches in our Diocese as they show us their creative responses to the words. Let's watch and wonder together (click on the image in the PPT)

[This was made during lockdown in 2020!]

- ...I wonder what made you think as you heard the words and saw the children's ideas?...
- ...I wonder what might make you want to give praise to God, or say 'Wow!'?...

There will be lots of opportunities during this week to do this!

Slide 13: We've heard how David often praised God when he saw something amazing, so now it's your turn! In place of our prayer for today, we're going to have a whole school shout out of thanks! This is not something we often encourage – shouting out, and all at once -but for today it gives us all a chance to say something. So now bring into your mind something in our world that makes you say 'Wow!': if you're stuck for ideas, there are a few pictures here to get you going...

Slide 14: [show pictures] Are you ready? I'm going to do a countdown and then all together, we are going to shout OUR praise. 3,2,1.....

God, for all these things, we are grateful.

Slide 15: Amen

Slide 16: This week, in our classrooms, we are going to be continuing with this theme and having the chance to write our very own songs and poems in praise of our world / creation / God. And we're really hoping that some of them we might even be able to sing!! *[using the 'Who made the twinkling stars?' writing frame]*

To sing / listen to:

[One world](#) (NBD)

Who made the twinkling stars? is a brilliant and simple song to sing: [Who Made the Twinkling Stars?](#) and provides one of the writing frames (p4) for your classroom reflection area

Link to video & song 'Creation calls': [Creation calls](#)

There is also a version showing the words of the song: [Creation Calls \(Lyrics\) by Brian Doerksen HD](#)

Sending: Slide 18

Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead,

All:may we serve one another in our **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**.



Ideas for classroom reflection: DIY Psalms

Select a writing frame from the examples included on p.4-8, which you could use in another collective worship. If you want to be able to sing it in school, use the 'Who made the twinkling stars?' model, with the video to help children learn it linked from above.





David wrote these words: 'At the works of your hands I sing for joy!'



Which things in the world around you make you say 'Wow!' or want to praise God?



Talk together about your thoughts and select some great ideas to use in your writing frame.



Write down your 'psalm' and then use it in your class reflection times or whole school collective worship.

DIY Psalm: Who made....?

KS1 version 1

The statements children will write link to the familiar song 'Who made the twinkling stars?' which you are going to change to include new lines, which could then be sung as a part of your worship. You can find a version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-r8xIY8NPYo> Check the number of verses in the version you use!

Each child will need a piece of paper, which will be folded over, one section at a time, as they write their ideas. Younger children could draw instead & we recommend you print these statements onto paper to save writing time. You may need to demonstrate how to fold the sections over beforehand!

Who made the.....

Who made the.....

Who made the.....

Who made the.....

Who made the.....

DIY Psalm: KS1 version 2

Each child will need a piece of paper, which will be folded over, one section at a time, as they write their ideas. Younger children could draw instead & we recommend you print these statements onto paper to save writing time. You may need to demonstrate how to fold the sections over beforehand!

Use an adjective to describe what God is like:

God, you are.....

Use an adjective to describe something that has been made (e.g. slithering snake):

You have made the.....

Give a reason why you say 'WOW!':

I saw 'WOW!' because.....

Give your Psalm an ending:

DIY Psalm: KS2 version

Each child will need a piece of paper, which will be folded over, one section at a time, as they write their ideas. Younger / less able children could draw instead and use fewer sections. You may need to demonstrate how to fold the sections over beforehand!

Start with your favourite way of addressing God

Write an exclamation of praise

Write a sentence about something God has done

Write a sentence about something God has made

Write a sentence that expresses how you feel about God

Finish with a concluding statement, beginning "I will...."

DIY Reflective poem: KS1 version

Each child will need a piece of paper, which will be folded over, one section at a time, as they write their ideas. Younger children could draw instead & we recommend you print these statements onto paper to save writing time. You may need to demonstrate how to fold the sections over beforehand!

I really love....

My heart is glad when.....

I saw 'WOW!' because.....

I wonder?....

DIY Reflective poem: KS2 version

Each child will need a piece of paper, which will be folded over, one section at a time, as they write their ideas. Younger / less able children could draw instead and use fewer sections. You may need to demonstrate how to fold the sections over beforehand!

Write a sentence about something you really love....

Write a sentence about something that makes your heart glad.....

Write a sentence about something about the world that makes you say 'WOW!'

Write a wondering question....

Finish with a concluding statement, beginning "I will...."