



## 12. Risen!



**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 term, we are focussing on creativity, and the content of an exhibition being hosted in Surrey this term: **Threads Through the Cross**, the work of textile artist Jacqui Parkinson. We are mindful that relatively few schools will be visiting the exhibition, so are bringing it right into your collective worship in a variety of different ways. Whilst it might seem strange to be focussing on the salvation story at this point in the school year, we hope that the endpoint of Advent and Christmas will be more meaningful having understood the journey to the Cross. We will also be linking to many 'Autumn term' themes that are a natural part of school life as children settle in to a new term, getting familiar with routines, school values and key events. **This week, we reach the end of our tour of the Threads Through the Cross exhibition panels, with the final two panels, focussed on the unexpected end of the Passion story, the surprise ending to the plan of salvation. We hope that this will bring extra meaning to the start of Advent (next week), seeing the familiar Nativity story again, but this time through the lens of the end of the story. This will also link strongly with the messages of hope that this story offers as we travel through Advent together.**



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

Each week, there will be a single word that will draw our focus to one particular aspect of either the textile panel or the story linked with it. You should easily be able to link the word to your school's values, but there will also be some suggestions included in the reflective questions as part of each week's materials. This week, we will think about the word **Risen!**, which we of course associate with Easter, the end of the Passion story. We link to the message of hope within this powerful story, and think about what we might want hope for in our own lives or our world. You may also wish to link this idea specifically to how your school community brings hope to others in the way that it engages with your wider community.

### 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. There are slides to go with today's script, but you could quite easily use some of this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- As always, you can find out more about Jacqui's work here: <https://www.jacqui-textile.com/> There is also a video of her being interviewed by BBC NW News at Liverpool Cathedral, when all three of her exhibitions visited in January 2025: <https://www.jacqui-textile.com/bible/>
- **In this resource, we include a final slide showing a similar piece of art from a different global tradition, giving pupils opportunities to both appreciate diversity within Christianity, and to see how Christians across the world reimagine this story showing Jesus 'like them' (which of course may mean like some pupils within our school communities). You may wish to use this slide outside of collective worship, enriching your RE provision.**
- You will need to think about some familiar story endings from your school or class library for the start of this week's resource, slide 5. Don't miss out the extra slide 16, which looks back at the previous 13 weeks – if time is tight, you may wish to use it at another point in the week.
- There are also some ideas for reflective activities to ponder for use in your reflective areas for this term, listed at the end of the script along with a handy wall chart to print each week for your reflective area. You can find all these as a separate file in our resources area, which may make it easier for teachers to print and use in their classrooms.
- **Reflective prayer activity:** you will need some small pieces of coloured paper to cut into symmetrical butterflies. Older children could do this for themselves. There is a short video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUQYGYz\\_G-M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUQYGYz_G-M) You only need to make one set of wings!

### Gathering:

**Slide 1: Use the new greeting for this term.**



**Leader:** We are a creative community. As we gather together today....

**ALL:** May our thinking, talking and wondering help us to grow.

*Here are BSL actions for some of the words:*

**Leader's words:**

Creative: <https://www.signdictionary.co.uk/view/creative?q=creative#title>

Community: (we use the word 'gathering' as it's a simpler sign!) <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gathering>

Gather: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video), or use the same sign we use for community as they approximate to the same thing!



### Response:

Think: <https://www.brightbsl.co.uk/signs/think>

Talk: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/talk> (1st video)

Wonder: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/wonder> (1st video)

Grow: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/grow> (2nd video)

### Engaging:

#### • Slide 2: Threads Through the Cross

This is our final week looking at Jacqui's panels, and we come to the very end of the Passion story.

#### • Slide 3: Surprise!!

What's the biggest surprise you've ever had?

How did it feel?

Have you ever had a surprise when you least expected it?

*[Share together with talking partners or small groups]*

#### • Slide 4: I wonder if you remember how at the very beginning of our series together, we looked at the beginnings of stories? Today, we come to the end of our series, so let's begin today with some endings!!

#### • Slide 5: Many of our favourite stories (especially the fairy story / Disney variety!) end with these words: '...and they all lived happily ever after.' and I expect that many of us often wish that real life was a bit more like that!

I wonder what story endings you can remember? Maybe when Rainbow Fish gave his scales away and gained lots of new friends.... Or the Cat in the Hat left and the house was peaceful again! *[give an example from stories you know your children love to get them started, then ask for some examples.]*

#### • Slide 6: Today you will be with me in paradise

You'll remember that this is where it seemed as if the story had ended for the disciples, when Jesus died on the Cross. Jesus had even said the words 'It is finished!'

It's fair to say that this was NOT the ending that the disciples had expected, and with Jesus gone, all their hope had disappeared too.....But the Cross wasn't the end of the story, as we remember each Easter time. God's great big surprise was about to take place!

#### • Slide 7: Empty Tomb and Ascension

So, for a final time, let's use Jacqui's work to help us to think. The panel sections show 2 surprise events – the **Empty tomb**, the Resurrection, which happened 3 days after Jesus died and the **Ascension**, which happened 40 days after that, when Jesus returned to Heaven to be with his Father. These are the final events in Jesus' life on earth – so let's gaze together one last time.....

As you gaze, I wonder what you notice?.... *[leave some space for them to take in the sections]*

...maybe you notice the angel standing on top of the empty tomb? ...or the darkness in the very centre of the tomb?

...maybe you notice Jesus, with the nail marks in his hands and feet?

...I wonder where he is going?...or what the disciples are thinking as they watch?

...maybe you notice the words? **He is not here – he is risen! and I am with you always – to the very end of the age.**

...I wonder what his friends are feeling as the surprises keep happening?!

With a talking partner, talk about the things that you think are **surprising** about these two panels.....

*[share some ideas together]*

#### Information about the birds this week:

- the peacock is an ancient Christian symbol of resurrection, as each new year it sheds then re-grows its tail feathers.
- the skylark regularly ascends high into the sky as it flies – but you can still clearly hear its call from the ground!



• **Slide 8: Hope-less to Hope-ful**

Jesus' disciples were not expecting either of these surprise events, because they thought that it had all ended when Jesus died. They went from feeling **hope-less** and disappointed, to **hope-ful**, filled with hope. Jesus said that when he went back to be with his Father in heaven, he would send them a gift, a helper, the Holy Spirit, which meant that he could be with them **always, to the very end of the age**. This hope is the gift also for any people who would follow Jesus – a promise to the very first Christians, and every Christian since, that they would never be alone.  
I wonder what brings you hope when you need it?

**Slide 9: Responding and words for worship**

We've thought today about the surprise ending to this story, and the new hope that it gave to the disciples.....

We've also heard the words that Jesus spoke to the astonished friend who gathered as he returned to Heaven...**I am with you always – to the very end of the age**.

We're going to use these words now as we think together.....

....**I wonder how Jesus' words (*I am with you always*) made a difference to the disciples?....or to Christians today?....or maybe for us?....**

....**I wonder what might be feeling a bit hope-less for us or our world?....**

....**I wonder how our actions might help to bring hope to others this week?....\*\***

*[\*\* you might want to add in a few words here about how your school's vision/values helps to do this in practical ways as part of your school family or wider community]*

**Slide 10: Opportunity for reflection / prayer**

I'm going to use a short prayer now to help focus us on living in a way that brings hope – and blessing – to all those around us. If you would like to make this prayer your own, then do use the 'Amen' at the end.

**Slide 11: The peace of God be in your heart.**

**Slide 12: The grace of God be in your words.**

**Slide 13: The love of God be in your hands.**

**Slide 14: The joy of God be in your soul and in the song that your life sings.**

**Slide 15: Amen**

*[Prayer by John Birch, from <https://www.faithandworship.com/index.htm#gsc.tab=0> ].*

**Slide 16: The BIG rescue plan and Threads Through the Cross**

Before we leave our time together today, we're just going to pause for a few moments to reflect on our journey in this term so far through the story of God's great BIG rescue plan, using Jacqui's creative gifts to help us. **Here's a selection of the panels** – there are too many to fit them all on the screen!

I wonder which of her pieces you liked the best and why?

I wonder which created the most discussions?

I wonder how her work might have helped us to understand this story better?

Or how her work might have inspired you to be more creative?

This big story has shaped how Christians think and act since the very first people chose to follow Jesus, and has had a huge impact on cultures across the world *[as we've seen in the extra slides....]*, including our own *[you may choose to explain this further e.g. in the calendar, public buildings, the way our justice system works, in works of literature, even the fact that we have free education for all...]* and in the life of our school *[e.g. your vision/values]*

....**I wonder what makes this such an important story of hope for some people?....**

**Sending: Slide 17 (NB note different word from last week!)**

**Leader: As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...**

**All: Together, we create a hope-filled community!**



BSL Together: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/together> (1st video); Hope: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/hope>  
You already have signs for 'community'

**To listen to / sing:**

[Let our love show](#) (NBD) or similar choice from across the term's selection



**Slide 18: Reflective areas**

A butterfly is a symbol of hope – it emerges from a brown, lifeless cocoon with bright and beautiful wings.

**Do:** Make a paper butterfly by folding and cutting.

**Think:** What might be feeling a bit hope-less for us or our world?....Or things we are disappointed about? Write or draw these situations onto the paper butterfly

**Talk:** You might like to turn your thoughts into a prayer or talk together about how our actions might bring hope to others.

**Slide 19: Showing the resurrected Jesus from different cultural perspectives**

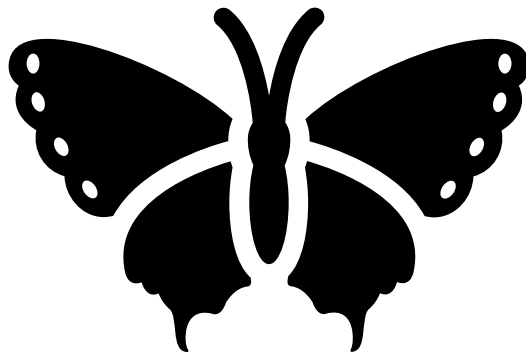
Link to original artwork: <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57362>, which includes some key information.

Looking at these two creative interpretations of this part of the story may be something that links with your RE curriculum, reflecting the fact that Christianity is a global religion, encouraging pupils to appreciate the diversity that exists across cultures, traditions and geographical areas. It's important for pupils' wider understanding that they are given opportunities to think about how Christians show Jesus as being 'like them', and that this important story for Christians is imagined in different ways across the world. It also creates an inclusive classroom environment, giving all pupils opportunity to see themselves in the art that they view.

You may wish to consider these questions:

- *What is the same? What is different?*
- *Which cultures / traditions does the sculpture come from? [You can find out about it here: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christ-the-Redeemer>]*
- *Why do we think this?*
- *What questions might we want to / need to ask?*





# Butterflies of hope

*A butterfly is a symbol of hope – it emerges from a brown, lifeless cocoon with bright and beautiful wings.*



**Make a paper butterfly by folding and cutting.**



**What might be feeling a bit hopeless for us or our world?....Or things we are disappointed about? Write or draw these situations onto the paper butterfly**



**You might like to turn your thoughts into a prayer or talk together about how our actions might bring hope to others.**

