

# Building Blocks for Intergenerational Worship: Collects, Prayers of the People, a Homily

*Written by Emily Keniston and the Rev. Katie Holicky*

## COLLECTS

### To be used for Children's Chapel or Intergenerational Worship

God who is love, we pray in thanksgiving for the ways you nurture us. We pray for children everywhere and for the grown-ups who care for them that they, with open hearts, continue to look, listen and feel for ways to grow, learn, share and give. *Amen.*

God who is always with us, we pray for healthy food to eat, beautiful music that moves us, relationships that bond us, for play with friends and grown-ups and for the gift of listening. Thank you for these ways to care for each other and inspire us to continue to share in your love. *Amen.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### For Children

Let us pray for the life of the world...

For our loved ones ... those whom we know and hold in our hearts, and all of your children across the world. Bond us in your love. God of love, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who teach us... our teachers at school and church, our parents and family at home and in all places we learn. Help us to listen with patience as we grow. God our teacher, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who lead us... give the leaders of our nations, towns and communities wisdom to serve people in love and peace. Give us all the language to share your love in the world. God who guides us, **Receive our prayer.**

For the sick and poor... we pray for access that meets the needs of those who do not have enough. For nutritious food, housing, loving relationships and all of the things that help us to thrive. God of the vulnerable<sup>vi</sup>, **Receive our prayer.**

For ourselves... we give thanks for playing with friends and grown-ups, for music that moves us and all of the good things you bless us with. Inspire us to respond to the needs of our neighbors as you have taught us. God who walks with us, **Receive our prayer.**

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<sup>vi</sup> The word vulnerable is included as it is important for children's understanding of the Gospel message. Our suggestion is that it also be included and defined in other places in the liturgy and formation.

## CLOSING COLLECT

God, we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts that we might connect more deeply with the needs of others and be moved to be your love and care in the world. Help us to keep courage as we learn, share, and give. *Amen.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### For Intergenerational Worship

Let us pray for the life of the world...

For our loved ones ... those whom we know and hold in our hearts and all of your children who are unknown to us but always known to you. Help us keep the needs of all, especially the youngest amongst us, in our prayers. Bond us through your love and inspire us to action alongside the voiceless. God of love, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who teach us... our teachers at school and church, our family at home and in all places we learn and grow. Help us to listen and pray with patience as we learn from God and one another. God our teacher, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who lead us... give the leaders of our nations, towns, communities and homes wisdom to serve people of all ages in love and peace. Give us all the language and intention to share your love in the world. God who guides us, **Receive our prayer.**

For the sick and poor... we pray for access that meets the needs of those who do not have enough. For nutritious food, housing, loving relationships and all of the things that help us to thrive. God of the vulnerable, **Receive our prayer.**

For ourselves... we give thanks for play, for music that moves us and all of the good things you bless us with. Inspire us to dwell in the stories of others and respond to the needs of our neighbors as you have taught us. God who walks with us, **Receive our prayer.**

## CLOSING COLLECT

God, we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts that we might connect more deeply with the needs of others and be moved to be your love and care in the world.

Help us to keep courage as we learn, share and give. *Amen.*

## CLOSING SONG

### ***Suggested Playlist***

#### **Songs**

“Bare Necessities” from Disney’s “The Jungle Book”

“What the World Needs Now Is Love”

“Happy” by Pharrell Williams

“Can’t Stop This Feeling” by Justin Timberlake (from the “Trolls” movie)

“Count on Me” by Bruno Mars

“What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong

“Lean on Me” by Bill Withers

“Best Day of My Life” by American Authors

#### **Hymns**

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

“This Little Light of Mine”

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

“Morning Has Broken”

*Rosemary, a volunteer with Anglican Council in Malawi holds a participant’s child during a home visit. Moments That Matter® enables parents to address children’s cognitive, psychosocial and physical development needs while also equipping communities to support their healthy development.*



## Sample Homily: For Children's Chapel or Intergenerational Worship

*Written by Lisa Puccio*

Jesus began his ministry after he was baptized by John in the River Jordan, and that's when our ministry begins, too. When we're baptized, we are made ready to serve God. Even if we are just babies, our baptism makes us part of God's family and turns us into his helpers.

When we're baptized, the people who love us make promises with us and for us to do the work that Jesus taught people to do. We promise to respect and love our neighbors, to follow Jesus and to help those in need. These are important and serious promises, but God gives us people to help us keep these promises.

Today, we're going to think about neighbors who we will probably never meet but are part of God's big family. Children around the world want to grow up healthy and strong, and their families love them just like your family loves you. But not everyone has the things they need to grow up healthy and strong, and that's when we can help be good neighbors.

Children and grown-ups need healthy food and people to love. We all need someone to listen to us and someone to play with. We need music and laughter, friends, hugs and prayers. Most of us have the things we need, and there are people who work to help everyone have the things they need. These helpers go around the world to be teachers and friends to families who want to learn about growing up safe and strong. We can help, too, by praying for children and families who are missing the things they need.

Praying is a good way to be a helper and a good way to keep your promise to God. You can also tell your friends that you are praying for children and families who need help. You can be thankful for all the things that you have and learn about how people around the world grow and learn in different ways.

Our church, and other churches like ours, are helpers, too. We send money and prayers to Episcopal Relief & Development. In this way, we can share with families who are learning to grow and be healthy. The people who work for Episcopal Relief & Development want us to all work together to know our neighbors better.

We are all part of God's big family. Be thankful for neighbors we haven't ever met, who live far away but know that we care about them.