

EDUCATION SUNDAY

27 JANUARY 2013

PRAYERS FOR EDUCATION SUNDAY

BELIEVING AND BELONGING

OPENING RESPONSES

Father Almighty, Your glory is spoken of throughout Creation

We offer praise and worship to You from our hearts.

Lord Jesus Christ, You came to proclaim good news and lay down Your life for us

We offer praise and worship to You from our hearts.

Holy Spirit, You are the fount of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding

We offer praise and worship to You from our hearts.

God of all grace and compassion,

whose ways are perfect,

whose words give us life,

whose love seeks to draw us together in harmony to build Your heavenly kingdom;

May we walk in truth and grace day by day

in our teaching and learning

in our living in community

in the building up of one another.

through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD'S WORD (Psalm 19)

God of truth and goodness

The heavens declare Your glory, day and night pour forth praise!

Open our eyes to see the beauty of Your works

Your law is perfect, refreshing the soul

Help us to drink at the well of Your wisdom

Your ways are right

May we respond to You with an open mind

Your instruction brings us joy and peace

Give us ears to hear and steadfast hearts to obey Your voice

Your words are more precious than pure gold

They are sweeter than honey

In the keeping them of them is great reward!

Amen.

SOME SUGGESTED PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN

1 Corinthians chapter 12 ;18-26 (précis from New Life Version of the Bible)

But God has put all the parts into the body just as He wants to have them. If all the parts were the same, it could not be a body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you." Or the head cannot say to the feet, "I do not need you." Some of the parts we think are weak and not important are very important. We take good care of and cover with clothes the parts of the body that look less important. The parts which do not look beautiful have an important work to do. The parts that can be seen do not need as much care. All the parts care for each other. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. If one part is given special care, the other parts are happy.

We are all rather like parts of a human body, each one of us good at different things. Ears are best at hearing, eyes are best at seeing, but they need help from hands and hands too. In church and in school some stand at the front to sing, say important things and be in charge of everyone but let's not forget people who work quietly hard in the background and others who are kind and know what to do when there are problems. We might think someone is the most important but God appreciates what each of His children does for others.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that everyone is so different. You love me very much – not because of what I do but for who I am. Help me to look out for special people in my school: the Head teacher, the shyest child who needs a friend, the cleaning ladies who work hard and our clever teachers who know so much. Amen.

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10 (précis from New Life Version of the Bible)

'Then all the people gathered and asked Ezra to bring the book of the Law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel to the gathering of men, women, and all who were able to understand. He read from it from early morning until noon and all the people listened to the book of the Law. ⁴ Ezra the writer stood on a raised floor of wood which they had made for this reason. Then Ezra gave honour and thanks to the Lord the great God. And all the people answered, "Let it be so!" while lifting up their hands. They bowed low with their faces to the ground and worshiped the Lord. The Levites helped the people understand the Law, telling the meaning of it so that they understood what was read. Then Nehemiah, who was the ruler, and Ezra and the Levites who taught the people, said to all of them, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not cry or be filled with sorrow." For all the people were crying when they heard the words of the Law.'

God's word is filled with truth and love. It shows us what is right. The people had forgotten some of the important things in the Law of Moses but when it was read out and the teachers explained what it meant they realised they did not live good lives and they were very sorry. But their leaders said 'Cheer up because God wants to forgive you and help you follow Him.'

Our Father in heaven, thank You for the stories in the Bible, that are filled with wisdom and knowledge and understanding. Thank You for our teachers who help us to learn and succeed at school. Please help children who find their work hard to do and help all of us to know the difference between right and wrong. Amen.

Luke 4:14-21 (précis from New Life Version of the Bible)

Jesus came to Nazareth where He had grown up. He went into the Jewish place of worship on the Day of Rest. Someone handed Him the book of Isaiah. He opened it and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me. He has put His hand on Me to preach the Good News to poor people. He has sent Me to heal those with a sad heart. He has sent Me to tell those who are being held that they can go free. He has sent Me to make the blind to see and to free those who are held because of trouble. He sent Me to tell of the time when men can receive favour with the Lord." He gave it back to the leader and sat down. Then He began to say to them, "The Holy Writings you have just heard have been completed today."

Jesus was just an ordinary person – although he never did anything wrong - but also the Son of God. One day he told the people in his little town that he was special by reading a prophecy from hundreds of years ago that described all the things he had come to do. They did not understand and were very angry with him.

Dear Lord, You have come to help everyone who needs it! Although we cannot see you any more you rose from the dead and you are alive today to be our friend and that is the best news. In our school there are people who need to hear about you, others who are hurt and sad, some need to be set free or able to see clearly. Please Jesus be near them – and use us to help. Amen.