** Advent Palm Prayers - Week 3**



**Teacher Notes**

This is a very simple way of praying with children

which doesn’t require any preparation or

gathering of resources. It could be added to any reflection

or worship or done on its own.

**With the children:**

Hold your hand in front of you palm upwards.

**Five**: We first think of our complete hand representing **hope** for the whole world. We remember all of the people in the Bible stories who were hoping for Jesus to come. We pray for all of those people for whom life feels a little bit hopeless at this time; we pray for the Good News of Christmas to be felt by all people. (*Pray for situations of concern at this time, particularly for people who won’t have homes this Christmas)*

**Four:** (Fold one finger down). We remember the prophets who announced that Jesus would bring a message of **peace.** We pray for all of the places in the world where there is still war and violence and we pray for all people who are picked on and hurt by others. *(Pray for any particular countries in the news*)

**Three:** (Fold another finger down). We remember how John the Baptist came to prepare everyone for Jesus’ message of **love**. We pray for leaders and people who hold power and influence that they will act kindly for the good of everyone. *(Pray for those who are overlooked and looked down upon, that they might be shown justice and know God’s love – name any particular groups of people).*

**Two:** (Fold another finger down). We remember the **joy** that Mary and Joseph felt when they found out that they had a special place in God’s plan. We give thanks for family and friends, near or far and we pray that through our relationships we might all come to know our place in God’s plan. *(Pray for particular needs locally, and especially for vulnerable families that they will find joy on this day. Adapt as appropriate to particular sensitivities.)*

**One:** We remember that Jesus came among us to show us how to make the world more like God’s Kingdom. We pray for everyone in our school and all of the other Church schools as we continue to try to follow God’s values.



**Closing prayer**

If you have made and advent wreath, you may like to finish by lighting the candles and use the candle lighting prayer (or you could copy the image below into a PowerPoint slide to display). Children could hold out their open hand while you say the words:

**As we watch and wait for the coming of Jesus,**

**We remember that he came to bring:**

**Hope where there is despair,**

**Peace where there is violence,**

**Love where there is hatred,**

**Joy where there is sorrow,**

**And light where there is darkness.**

**Amen**



