

Collective Worship – RESPECT 1

Welcome – As we light the candle we think of God the Father who made our World, God the Son who died for us and God the Holy Spirit who is with us always.

What is your favourite animal? Have you ever sat and thought about the huge diversity of animals in our World? Elephants, kangaroos, snakes, butterflies, enormous blue whales and tiny ladybirds. All so different.

Plants are the same too and they are amazing. They give us life, food, flowers, medicines and so much more.

Christians believe that God created this wonderful World that we live in and it for us to enjoy but also we need to respect it and look after it.

Throughout the past few weeks I have had plenty of time to sit in my garden and go for walks and marvel at God's incredible Universe – the stars, the moon, clouds, trees, birds singing.

Story – Long ago there was a young woman who was about to have a baby. She had a dream that her child would be special and would sparkle!

When the baby was born her mother named her Hilda. She spent time teaching people about God and she was very wise. Even Bishops and Kings visited her.

Hilda loved God's creation and she encouraged people to give thanks to God for his creation by singing songs, painting pictures, writing poems and decorating manuscripts. She liked to encourage people who felt they had no gifts.

One day a young man came to the monastery and after eating a meal the monks got out a harp, started to play and sang songs to thank God for His creation. Each one sang a song but when it was Caedmon's turn he was too embarrassed and ran away to a barn.

Whilst he was in the barn he fell asleep and in a dream God told him to sing. 'What shall I sing about?' he asked. 'Sing about Creation' came the reply. In his dream he sang beautiful songs about the sea, the sky, the animals, flowers...'

When he woke up he remembered all the songs and told Hilda what had happened. He wrote many songs about creation and encouraged others to see the beauty around them.

Both Hilda and Caedmon are remembered today for their love of creation and their inspirational lives.

Reflection - There is a wonderful book out called 'World in Danger' which was originally a song written by an 8 year old boy called Frankie. He combined his love for music and the natural world and wrote a song.

We need to take time to look at creation and to respect it and keep it safe for others.

Think about your favourite animal and what makes it unique and special? Maybe go out into the garden and just look at a flower and see how delicate and beautiful it is.

Listen to Frankie's song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77DzQvJOvKI>

Prayer – Dear God, Help us to enjoy your World. Thank you for all the animals, plants and people in it. Help us to respect your creation and do what we can to keep it beautiful for other to enjoy too. Amen.

Follow – up –

- Look at a flower and sketch it. Look at it carefully at its colour and shape.
- Go on a walk and take photographs of God's creation and then make a collage of pictures – sky, animals, people, trees, flowers, fields, insects that you saw on your walk.
- Make up your own song about creation or write a poem.
- Write a prayer to thank God for His creation

Follow this link to watch this week's Collective Worship video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wHjYzOhr3Q>