

Friday March 1st 2019
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
'Come – Everything Is Ready'
CHILDREN'S SERVICE
From the WDP Committee of Slovenia



(Please read the Leader's Notes about preparation well before the day of the service)

Bee reader: Welcome, dear children! Živijo! (*Jiv-ee-o*) This is how we say hello in Slovenia. Can you say it after me? Živijo!

Children: **Živijo!**

Bee reader: I am very happy to have you here with us so that we can explore Slovenia together. Let me introduce myself: I am a bee, an insect, well known to all the children in Slovenia. I am a very useful creature because I gather pollen from flowers and turn it into sweet honey, which is very beneficial for our health. I can also fly and take you with me to see the beauty of our lovely country, Slovenia. What do you say, children? Will you come with me?
(*Let the children respond*)

Reader: Dear God,
for hundreds of years,
people in Slovenia have known you.
Just like us, our Slovenian friends have felt your love and care.
How good you are, God!
Thank you!

All: **All the world says thank you!**
The waterfalls
and the waves of the sea,
the fruit trees and the fields,
the green forests and the snowy hills.
Thank you, God, for loving us!

Reader: Jesus, you healed sick people,
and you still speak kindly when we're down.
You help us to do what is kind and loving.
How good you are, Jesus!
Thank you!

All: **All the world says thank you!**
The villages and the cities,
the birds singing and wild animals howling,
music playing and people singing.
Thank you, God, for loving us!

Reader: Holy Spirit, you bring us together,
helping people who are different, to be friends.
How good you are, Holy Spirit!
Thank you!

All: **We thank you for our friendships**
with other children, families and older people,
and we put our future in your hands.

Reader: Welcoming God, your love is like a big table set for a party
and you ask us to come to your table and bring our friends too.

All: Thank You God for your Kingdom of love,
in Jesus' name,
Amen.

Reader: The World Day of Prayer is celebrated in the name of God, the Creator, who gave us the world in which we live; in the name of Jesus Christ, who leads us on the path of peace, friendship and co-operation; and in the name of the Holy Spirit, who gives us strength and joy.

Bee reader: We will now hear the buzzing of bees (*Buzz sound – see Leader's notes P1*). Bees live together in a large family in their home, which is called a beehive. They belong together, and care for one another.

Like bees, people also live in families and communities, so it is good that we respect, love and care for each other.

Song: Čebelica (Che-bayl-itsa) - The Bee by Janez Bitenc (*see Leader's Notes P2*)

*One Bee, one little bee
be a pretty flower
em, tem I eat honey cookies
Now you are out*

Bees flying over Slovenia

Reader: This is the map of Slovenia. Let's fly over it. (*let the children mimic*)
What does the shape of Slovenia look like? As you can see, Slovenia is shaped like a hen with a beak, a head and legs. (*show shape on map*)
What does the shape of your country remind you of? (*let the children reply*)

Activity: Give each child a blank map of the world on which to colour their own country and Slovenia, and compare their sizes. (*see LN's P1 para 3*)
Slovenia is a very small country with only 2 million inhabitants. Do you know how many people live in your country? Slovenia is _____ times more / less compared to your country? (*Reader can help*)

Bee reader: Let's continue our flying! Slovenia is rich in everything you can imagine: sea, mountains, plains, caves, lakes, rivers, forests. Children in Slovenia like to swim in the summer, or to gather mushrooms in the autumn in the red-orange-brown coloured woods, while in winter they can go skiing in the mountains. Spring is the time when they like to go for walks and look for the first flowers, or for young birds or animals.

Reader: This diversity is also reflected in the Slovenian flag. (*show the flag*)
What do you think the coat of arms represents? (*let children guess*)

Bee reader: The white mountain represents Triglav - the highest mountain in Slovenia with its three heads; the two wavy lines represent the sea and the rivers; the 3 stars represent the Counts of Celje, who were once the most important noble ruling family.

Song: Mi smo mladi, veseli kristjani (*We are young happy Christians*) Franc Juvan (*Used by permission*)
(*alt tune: 'Bunessan' CH4 577*)

As we are gathered, young, happy Christians,
wishing to worship God who is good,
Jesus will touch us, He will assist us,
keeping us loving, hearts ever true.

In all our lessons, we get to know you,
sharing our worries in all we pray.
Our kindest actions offering to you,
we give a welcome to you each day.

You are forgiving when we are sorry,
You are our helper changing the world.
You give us friends and family beside us,
helping us learn to love every one.

Reading the Gospel passage: Luke 14: 15-24

Reader: Jesus likes to tell stories to talk about God. Once at a dinner, somebody was talking about being blessed, and Jesus responded with a story about a dinner. In that dinner, things did not happen as the host had thought but a new community was formed around the dinner table. In the parable that Jesus told, the master had invited people to a party. The people who were invited had other things to do at just the time they should have gone to the party. They started to make excuses to the servant. One had bought a field, and wanted to inspect it, another had bought oxen and wanted to try them out, one had just got married and so he could not come. So, the servant came back and told the master, who was disappointed. But he decided not to miss the opportunity and told the servant to go out into the streets and invite all to come as everything was ready. He went and invited whoever he met on the streets: the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame. And when they had all come in, there was still more room for others to come and fill the house with joy, friendship, and love.
Would you like to come to this party?
Who would you find on your street to bring to that table?
How wonderful, the house is filled! What does this dinner look like now?
(Let the children offer some responses and thoughts)
Remember, 'Come - everything is ready.'
Let's invite each other to the table and be a community that loves Jesus!

Song: Pridi, ljubi Jezus (*Come Sweet Jesus*) France Ačko (Used by permission) (alt tune: 'Glenfinlas' CH4 599)

Come, beloved Jesus,
come into my heart.
Come Lord, and be with me,
never more to part.

You are our creator,
this we all confess.
In my heart you're welcome,
source of loveliness.

Truly I adore You,
source of every good.
Lovingly, I call You,
and I thank You Lord.

For my sins I'm sorry,
help me sin no more.
Teach me how to love You,
now and evermore.

(If an offering is being uplifted do it during this song)

Prayer: Instruct the children when to bring their card to the table. (see LN's P1 para 4)

Bee reader: Thank you, God, Creator of our planet. Thank you for all the beauty of creation which surrounds us.

Children: **Creator God, please help us to live responsibly and care for nature.**

- Reader:** Thank you, Lord, for all the *people* whom you have created.
Thank you, because you gave us people who love us.
- Children:** **God of Love, please help us also to love all people.**
- Bee reader:** Loving God, we believe that you have a wonderful *plan* for each one of us.
- Children:** **Dear God, please be close to all who suffer, who are sick or lonely.**
- Reader:** Hear the children who know no *peace* in their childhood.
- Children:** **God our father and mother, please help children and their families who must flee from their homes to find hospitality and understanding.**
- Bee reader:** Thank you, Caring God, for *food*, joy and protection.
- Children:** **Caring God, please teach us to share lovingly with those who live in poverty.**
- Reader:** Thank you God for the gifts of *wisdom* and creativity with which you have endowed the children of the world.
- Children:** **God of wisdom, please teach us to respect every human being.**
- Bee reader:** Thank you Lord for Jesus, the *Word of God*, through whom we are praying to you.
- Children:** **Please God help us to listen carefully to your Word, so that we can make it a part of our lives.**
- Reader:** (*Blessing of the children*)

Thank you Lord for your loving care.
Bless us.
Let your Word grow and blossom in our hearts and minds.
Go with us.
Help us day by day.
Amen
(*Thank the children for their joyful participation*)

Please use the Leader's Notes. See also the Activity Sheet and the website: www.wdpScotland.org.uk

*If an offering is taken please send it to:
WDP Scottish Treasurer, Suzanne Foster, Delnapot, Blacksboat, Banffshire AB37 9BQ*

WDP Scottish Committee Scottish Charity Number SC 020446