

## **Church at Home Pack – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)**

(Please bear with us as we work out how we continue with our services during this time. There may be a mix of live streamed and online services – we will keep you informed.)

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

**In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.**

### **GATHER TOGETHER**

#### ***A prayer to start –***

God of joy,  
your love reaches out  
to those who are sad.  
Your words encourage us  
to care for the poor.  
Your inspiration challenges us  
to face up to the wrong in our world.  
Make us strong to do your work and  
give us the joy that comes from knowing you.  
**Amen.**

#### **Action reminder –**

From the top of my head  
(*Touch head*)  
to the tips of my toes;  
(*Touch toes*)  
from the lobes of my ears  
(*Touch ear lobes*)  
to the end of my nose;  
(*Touch nose*)  
from my back, to my front  
(*Turn round*)  
to my wiggly fingers,  
(*stretch out arms and wiggle fingers*)  
God loves me!  
(*jump up and down*)

## READ TOGETHER

### *Isaiah 61: 1-4*



#### **International Children's Bible (ICB)**

**61** The Lord God has put his Spirit in me.

This is because he has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor.

He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken.

He has sent me to tell the captives they are free.

He has sent me to tell the prisoners that they are released.

<sup>2</sup> He has sent me to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness  
and the time when our God will punish evil people.

He has sent me to comfort all those who are sad.

<sup>3</sup> He has sent me to the sorrowing people of Jerusalem.

I will give them a crown to replace their ashes.

I will give them the oil of gladness to replace their sorrow.

I will give them clothes of praise to replace their spirit of sadness.

Then they will be called Trees of Goodness.

They will be like trees planted by the Lord and will show his greatness.

<sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the old ruins.

They will build up the places destroyed long ago.

They will repair the ruined cities  
that were destroyed for so long.

#### **New International Version (NIV)**

**61** The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,

<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy

instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendour.

<sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

## WATCH TOGETHER



**New City Kids**  
loving kids for change

New City Kids read Isaiah 61: 1-4

<https://youtu.be/IYA6fVWJ6R0>

## TALK TOGETHER

Think and talk about the events of this year. It's been very different and very difficult!

- Have you (personally) been able to find comfort, freedom and happiness? Where and how?
- How has your relationship with Jesus helped you?

## STUDY TOGETHER

The last 27 chapters of the book of Isaiah generally bring a message of good news, forgiveness, comfort and hope. Here, he is speaking as God's chosen prophet, he is speaking of the coming Messiah and he is speaking to us, today.

**Read the Bible Passage aloud.**

- What are the words that stand out for you in this passage?

Jesus himself uses the words of this prophecy at the very start of his ministry.

**Read Luke 4: 14-21**

As followers of Jesus, we need to live our lives as he showed us how.

- How does it feel to know that **we** too are anointed or appointed by God to carry out the tasks in this verse?
- Who are the broken-hearted, the captives, the prisoners today?
- How can we comfort or bind-up the broken hearted?
- What does it mean for us today to tell the captives or the prisoners that they are free?

This year has been particularly difficult!

The end of verse 2 and verse 3 speak about sorrow, sadness, despair and mourning.

- Where have you seen or felt comfort for sadness, a crown for ashes or the 'oil of gladness'?

You might like to use the **Reflect Together** section to think further about the 'Trees of Goodness' or the 'Oaks of Righteousness' at the end of verse 3.

Although, as New Testament people, we are waiting for Jesus to return again we can read verse 4 with hope and assurance that God keeps his promises and there **will** be repair and renewal and 'a new heaven and earth' (Revelation 21) when he comes.

## PLAY TOGETHER

### *Free the Captives!*



You'll need a dice.

Sit in a circle and take it in turns to roll the dice. If you get a 6 you have to go and stand in the corner as if you're in prison. You can be freed by anyone who can go and tell you some good news about Jesus! (e.g. Jesus is alive, Jesus loves you)

## MAKE TOGETHER

### *Beauty from Brokenness?...*

The words in the Bible passage give us pictures of things that are sad, difficult or broken being turned into better things. It gives us hope.

Have a look in your recycling box at the things we would consider rubbish and see what you can turn them into. Can you use them to make something beautiful to remind you of this passage? As we are in the season of Advent and Christmas is approaching, why not try to make a Christmas Decoration?

If you have some newspaper in your box, why not use it and turn the difficult news of this year into a symbol of Christmas Hope and make a **Newspaper Straw Star!**

(If you are doing this with children who are able to read, you might want to check the content of the page you are using – or use an old magazine or scrap paper)

### **You will need:**

5 strips of newspaper (all the same length and width – we used 18cm x 4cm but the longer the strip, the longer your straw and the bigger your star!)

Coloured Felt Pens or Pencils

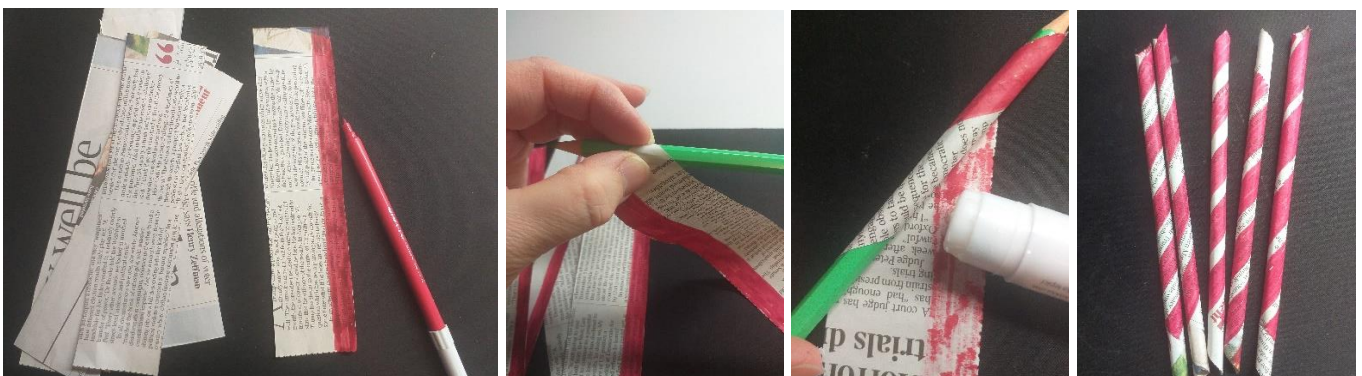
Glue

String

(And a pencil to roll the paper around)

### **Method:**

Colour in a strip along the edge of each piece of paper with your pens or pencils. Make sure it's roughly the same size on each strip of paper. Create your 5 straws by rolling the strips around the pencil, using glue to secure the edges. Follow the numbered pictures to construct your star. Flatten it and add a string loop to hang it by.



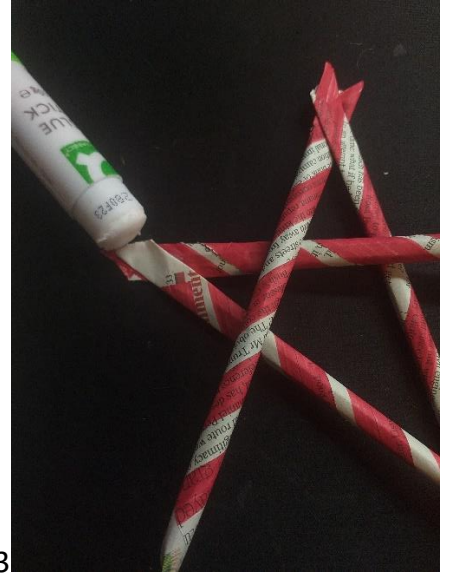




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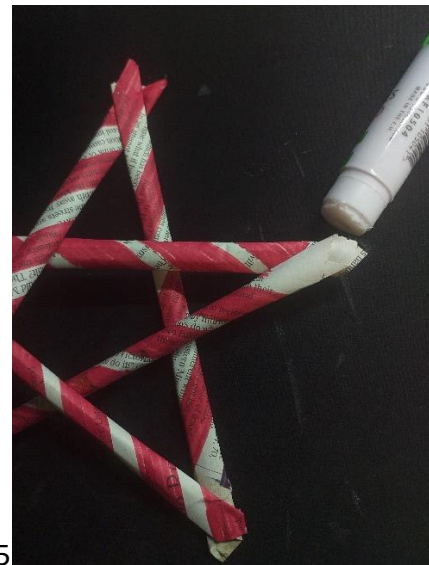
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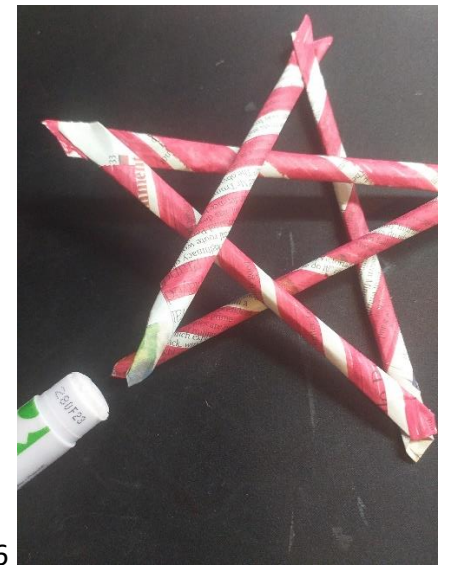
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4



5



6



7

### **Stained Glass Lid Baubles**

Using any clear round plastic lid and permanent markers (such as Sharpies) you can make beautiful decorations to hang on a tree or in the window. Or, you can stick on tissue paper or shiny things!



### **SING TOGETHER**

*Cry of the Broken* – Hillsong Worship <https://youtu.be/zRq-DF-4TRQ>

*Beauty for Brokenness* – Graham Kendrick <https://youtu.be/MO1G-o7Yj-c>

*God of all Comfort* – Ellie Holcomb <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hhf5Ghk-O7E>

*Imagine* – Keith and Kristyn Getty (sung by Kristyn Getty, Margaret Becker & Joanne Hogg)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z35CZzDpjrA>

*He Knows Me (A song of comfort for all God's children)* – Jenny Richards  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC50S7Xh4UY>

### **REFLECT TOGETHER**

*Trees of Goodness, Oaks of Righteousness...*

*Then they will be called Trees of Goodness. They will be like trees planted by the Lord and will show his greatness. (ICB)*

*They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour. (NIV)*

Spend some time looking at these pictures of oak trees.....



As soon as it pushes out of the ground, it's an oak tree. No matter if we are young (in our age or our faith) or mature, we are still the oak trees or the **Trees of Goodness** that God planted and our lives should display that. Because of Jesus and our deep-rooted relationship with him, we can all be strong and mighty oaks.

How might you be a **Tree of Goodness** and display God's greatness and splendour in your life this week?



## PRAY TOGETHER

### **Prayer Swap**

The Bible passage tells us that because of Jesus, we can swap broken hearts for comfort, captivity for freedom, sorrow for gladness...

Draw some pictures that represent these things. Draw the sad or difficult thing on one side and the 'swap' on the other side. (For example: a sad face on one side and a happy face on the other)

Lay them on the table with the sad or difficult side facing up.

As you look at each picture, think about a person or a situation that needs Jesus' help to swap.

As you pray, turn them over, trusting that your prayers have been heard.



### **An Action Prayer**

Loving Jesus,

Thank you for comforting me when I'm upset.

*(Wrap your arms around yourself like a hug)*

Thank you for wiping my tears when I cry.

*(Pretend to wipe tears away from your face)*

Thank you for helping me laugh when I'm sad.

*(Laugh out loud!)*

Help me to comfort others.

*(Wrap your arms around yourself like a hug)*

Help me to wipe away their tears.

*(Pretend to wipe tears away from your face)*

Help me to bring a laugh and a smile where there is sadness.

*(Laugh out loud!)*

Help me to share your love with everyone I meet!

**Amen!**

## DO TOGETHER

Tom reminded us that as followers of this promised Messiah we have the same role. We are called to 'Live God's Love' to those who need it: the poor, the broken hearted, the prisoners...

### **Isaiah 61: 1 (NIV)**

**The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on YOU!**

Read this verse as you begin each day this week.

You might like to write it on a card and carry it with you wherever you go.

How can you 'Live God's Love' this week?



**The Church of England Comfort and Joy Advent Calendar has some ideas for offering comfort to those in need:**

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/COFE\\_02977\\_AdventCalendar-ComfortandJoy\\_v4.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/COFE_02977_AdventCalendar-ComfortandJoy_v4.pdf)

Email: [family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

*Prayer to start, Action Reminder and Action Prayer taken and adapted from*

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