

A Litany for the Easter Season

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May be used with intergenerational worship

Theme Presentation

Easter brings to us the surprise of something that we did not see before because we thought it impossible, but now it all looks different after Easter.

Something new came into being: from a bulb – a flower; from the spirit of Christ – new hope in the face of death.

Celebrate making new life possible for the poor, the sick and the lonely through giving that expresses God's love. Giving makes new life possible where it might not have been before.

Make New Life Possible with Giving

"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

They walked with heavy sadness,
those two disciples on a long, lonely journey.
A stranger joined them. It was Jesus.
But they could only see a stranger,
a friend to share the long walk ahead.

He spoke with them,
comforted their sadness and offered new thoughts.
When he gave thanks for the bread,
broke it and gave it to them,
they saw and they knew it was Jesus.
People are sometimes
afraid to see the hope and new life their faith shows them.

They think they must consider only what is real.
But what is real? Hunger is real,
so are the faces of children with no hope.
Greed is real and so is violence and war.
People of faith can see that.
Why can't they see the presence of the Lord,
who speaks to their hearts about other things that are just as real?

Love is real.
The eyes of faith see new possibilities
where none were found before.
Even death does not hold back the spirit of God.
So let's look again.
Let's see the living Christ
sharing the journey, inspiring new hope.

A Litany for the Easter Season Continued

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Among the poor and homeless,
in the prisons and hospitals,
in the lands of famine and war,
new hopes are waiting to be seen.
The journey starts with ordinary steps
as we walk our daily paths,
looking around as Jesus did with the love of God in our view.

"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

Presentation Suggestions

Three people might do this reading. Two would be assigned to the scripture reading. In the Scripture reading, they could both read the first line in unison and then one read the second line and the other read the third line.

Follow the theme presentation with music for quiet reflection. The music might be suggestive of the spark of life that burns within, such as a refrain from the Easter Hymn, "Christ The Lord is Risen Today" or "In the Bulb There is a Flower." During the playing of the refrain (half a minute or so) a few children of different ages might bring forward lighted candles, a Bible and flowers to be part of the symbols placed at the front of the church.

This could be followed with the sharing of an outreach story emphasizing how new life becomes possible.

Ideas and Activities

An Easter session for a group of children and/or youth:

- 1) Share the story in Luke 24:13-32 with children's groups or youth. Invite youth and older children to ponder the question: Why couldn't the disciples see that Jesus was with them on this journey? What helped them to see?
- 2) Read the theme reading as a unison or alternating reading.
- 3) Follow this by searching through resources such as magazines or posters about church outreach - local and global. Or share experiences from the everyday life of the children or youth. Ask: Where is the spirit of Christ in these stories? What kind of world does God want us to see and work for?
- 4) If time permits, invite children or youth to choose a story of hope where people see new possibilities. They might write the story in their own words, draw their own pictures and create a newsletter of Good News to publish for distribution to the congregation.

Adapted from *Here's Something You Can Do*, written by Leslee Alfano and produced by the Canadian Interchurch Stewardship Committee.

Here's Something You Can

Do contains 12 presentations for intergenerational worship, each with accompanying activities for children and youth. The presentations focus on stewardship and mission themes, following the changing seasons of the year and the church calendar.