Risen and Real: Resources for Intergenerational Worship

Early Word Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B April 29, 2018

What this is: Intergenerational Story based on John 15:1-8 and prayer extension

Where it’s used: In any intergenerational gathering, but especially for Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B April 29, 2018

Time: 5 minutes

Bible focus/theme: John 15:1-8 Community and Connection

What’s needed: text and illustrations of ‘Hang On!’ displayed on screen or in large A3 poster format. Download here:
A really well prepared, engaging story teller.
Green and Purple plasticene in small lumps. solid table or board surface.

Hang On

This, like all Bible stories, is an all-age story. Don’t call children to the front, away from their families. This is a story to listen to as family, as whole community, so draw all your community in. Use all your best story telling gestures, work the whole space, remember that timing, suspense, pause and dynamics are essential in shaping communication that serves the listener well.

With each repetition of the phrase “hang on” grasp on to something around your space, suggesting the connectedness of the environment, as well as those within it.
Prayer Extension

Provide 2 small lumps of purple and green plasticene to each person before the story begins. Invite them to roll small round grapes from the purple plasticene and longer sections of vine and leaves from the green. When the story is finished ask each person to join their grapes and line to the person’s next to them. As they do so, invite them to pray this simple prayer for each other:

‘I pray that you [name] will hold on to Jesus, grow in the spirit and be fruitful in love and justice and peace.’

Or - choose one of the shorter prayers
‘I pray for you as you keep holding on to Jesus’
‘I pray for you as you grow in the Spirit of God’
‘I pray for you as you are fruitful in the kingdom’

This vine is then to be added to another near by, As you do this take the opportunity to pray for then another and another, getting larger each time.

Gradually bring the prayers together on a table or board on the floor. Finish you prayers with a simple affirmation:

Thankyou Living Lord Jesus that you hang on to us in your faithfulness and grace. Keep us connected to one another with care and reaching out other in your love. We pray for the sake of your growing and living Kingdom Amen.
But look!
She’s not alone
She has a bunch of friends
They hang around
together.

And look,
they are all connected.
Each of them has
a little stem
that hangs on
to the bunch.

And the branch
reaches
way, way back …

back a bit …

back a bit
further …
that’s it.

And they grow together.
The whole bunch
hangs on to a branch.

And the branch
reaches
way, way back …

back a bit …
Right back—
but hanging on all the way.
The branch goes back to the trunk.

Sometimes
it’s hard to see how.
But every branch
and every bunch
hang on together as one vine.
And together
they all keep living and growing.

It meets and twists
and tangles with
other branches,
but they are all
connected in to
the trunk.

If they didn’t hang on…
oops, like this one,
they wouldn’t grow.

Jesus says—
hang on to me.
I’m like the vine
that hangs on
to you.
And to hang on
to me,
is to hang on
to God.
And hang on
to each other,
as you hang on
to me.
God is hanging on
to us all.