

Children and family talk for 10th January 2021

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.
Happy New year!

Let's start our worship with the words from Psalm 29 verse 1 and 2.

Honour the Lord, you heavenly beings; honour the Lord for his glory and strength. Honour the Lord for the glory of his name. Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

Our Bible reading today is from Genesis chapter 1 verses 1 to 5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty and darkness covered the deep waters. And the spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light. And there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night". And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

Let's praise God now as we sing: Our God is a great big God

Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
And God holds us in those hands
(repeat)

God's higher than a skyscraper

God's deeper than a submarine
God's wider than the universe
And beyond my wildest dreams
And God knows me and God Loves Me
Since before the world began
How wonderful to be a part
of God's amazing plan!

Let's talk about the bible reading:

Today in our bible reading we have gone right back to the beginning of the bible, where we hear the story of the creation of our world by God. We hear how empty and dark everything was, with deep waters and God's spirit hovering over it all. It is difficult for us to imagine this, the picture of just darkness with deep water – if you've ever been out in a boat at night, where you can't see anything around you, I guess this would be the nearest we would get to it. Complete darkness and no land in sight.

But then, God creates light. It's great! God is really happy with it and names it, 'day' and calls the darkness 'night'. Suddenly, we have our first 'day', with time proceeding and morning following the evening. Some people may be feeling that they are in the darkness now as we begin a new lockdown in the UK. Perhaps struggling to cope with all the changes that this means to our usual routines of school and home life. However, we haven't yet talked about one of the most important bits of this reading – God's spirit was hovering over the water, even in the darkness, before light was created, God was there. God is always

there, right from the beginning of time and even in the darkness. God is always with us, even when things seem bad – there is light and there will be a new day.

And we pray:

Lord, the light of your love is shining, thank you for your light and love and the hope that knowing you can give us. We thank you for our friends and family, and ask that you help to keep us all safe. Amen.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21752/10th-january-2021-activity-sheet.pdf>