

Messy Church world day of Prayer celebration 2021

Let's start by singing:

For I'm Building

**For I'm building a people of power, and
I'm making a people of praise
That will move through this land by my
Spirit,
And will glorify my precious name.**

**Build your church Lord,
Make us strong Lord,
Join our hearts Lord, through your Son.
Make us one, Lord,
In your body,
In the Kingdom of your Son.**

Talk:

Hello everyone, welcome to our special Messy Church celebration and children and family worship space for February half term, based on the material supplied by the World day of Prayer.

Our bible story today is based on the bible reading from Matthew chapter 7 verses 24 to 27.

Jesus had been talking to the crowds of people that followed him, telling them stories to help them to understand about the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said, "Anyone who listens to my teachings and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

This story tells us that if we trust in God, we are like the man who built his house with a good strong base. It will help us to cope even when it rains and things aren't going the way we think they should.

Let's sing again:

The wise man built his house upon the rock,

The wise man built his house upon the rock,

The wise man built his house upon the rock

And the house upon the rock stood firm.

The rains came down and the floods came up X3

And the house upon the rock stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand x3

And the house upon the sand fell down.

The rains came down and the floods came up X3

And the house on the sand fell down!

So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, X3

And the blessings will come down.

The blessings come down as your prayers go up, X3

So build your life on the Lord.

In our Messy Church this half term we have been looking at the Islands of Vanuatu, here is some news from there:

Vanuatu is a nation of some 300,000 people living on parts of 83 islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Like many Pacific countries and other low-lying, coastal areas, it's frequently ranked as one of the world's most vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather. "When the rain comes, we feel trapped as if we were standing on a ship," Daniels said.

His home is located on an island strip less than 70 metres wide. When Daniels was a child, this land was twice as wide. Now his home and his village of Marow are vanishing, losing ground to the sea year by year. Where he used to play football, today there are only floating boats.

"If the sea levels continue to rise, this village will disappear," he said. "Our community will disappear."

Afraid that rising sea levels will swallow Marow within a few years, the entire village is planning to move to higher ground – a costly relocation that few here can afford. Many have already left for good, migrating to the capital, Port Vila, in search of work.

For Daniels, it's the clearest sign of how climate change is disrupting lives, and forcing vulnerable communities to adapt or flee.

The powerful storms that tear through the Pacific are becoming more intense and more unpredictable. Extended droughts make staple crops harder to grow, and food more expensive. Lost income is driving migration away from land that had supported families for generations.

But what can we do to help?

Everyone can help to reduce climate change, by recycling more, making less car journeys, reusing things instead of buying new things, and treating our world better, knowing that we are running out of resources, and everything we do affects not just ourselves, but people all over the world, including on the other side of the world, in the Islands of Vanuatu. God has given us our wonderful world, and we need to look after it better for everyone.

Talking to God:

Dear God, we thank you for the fun we have had this week doing all our messy church activities. Help us to think of others, and not to leave the tap running, or to buy new things that we don't really need. Help us to look after your world better for everyone. We thank you that we can have a strong foundation because we know and love you Lord. Thank you for looking after us.

Amen.

Before I go, I'd just like to remind you if you would like to join in our Sundayclub zoom sessions, you will need the link, so please phone or message me. 07511950633.

Prayers and blessings.

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

Messy Grace: 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)*