

Children and family talk for 7th March 2021

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

Let's start our worship by singing: **All Heaven declares**

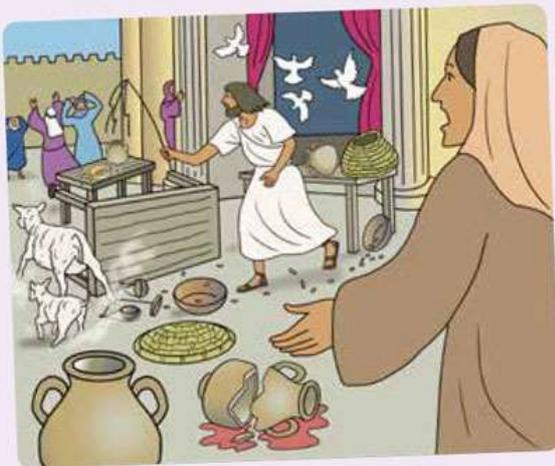
All Heaven Declares
The glory of the risen lord
Who can compare,
with the beauty of the lord
Forever you will be
the lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow my knee
And Worship You alone!

I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord.
Who once was slain,
to reconcile man to God
Forever You will be
the lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow my knee
And Worship You alone...

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Our Bible reading today is from John 2.13-22

I remember that day really well. It was nearly **Passover**. ☼ The Temple courts were crowded. There were men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. The next thing we knew, Jesus was making a whip out of cords, and he began to drive the animals out of the Temple.



Cows and sheep were charging about, and doves were flying everywhere as he let them out of their cages. He scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He began shouting, 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a marketplace!' ☼

'As I look back now, I remember that the ancient prophets had written, 'Zeal for God's house will overwhelm me.' We could see it with our own eyes. And then the Jews there demanded of him, 'What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?' And Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this Temple, and I will raise it in three days.' They laughed. 'It's taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?!' But after the resurrection, the "three days" began to make sense! ☼

John 2.13-22

- the Passover was a joyful Jewish festival, celebrating God's people's escape from Egypt.
- the Temple was built by King Herod, started in 19 BC and not finished until AD 64.

Now let's sing again; **For I'm building a people of power.**

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.

Let's talk about our Bible verses

In our bible passage we see Jesus reacting to what he finds when he goes to the temple grounds. (A temple is the same as a church today). In those days it was normal to have to take an offering into the church with you to give to God. This depended on your wealth and what you wanted to be forgiven for, so the people in the temple grounds were there to provide the offerings, which were the animals. But Jesus realised these people were making money out of God's people and had turned God's house into a marketplace. This is the only time we really see Jesus lose his temper, and rightly so!

But Jesus then says a really strange thing to the Jews who were wondering what had given Jesus the right to turn over the sellers table and drive the animals out of the courtyard. Jesus said "Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days". Now everyone knew the temple had taken many, many years to build, and Jesus was saying he could rebuild in a matter of days! Of course, they laughed at him. Surely, he was joking or had gone mad.

No, Jesus was perfectly serious, but it wasn't until after Easter that the full meaning of what he had said began to be realised. Jesus was talking about his own body being the temple, and we know now that Jesus came back to life after three days, just as he said he would. So, what does this mean for us? Well, during the last year, we have had to adapt the way we go to church – our buildings have become less important to us, as we have learnt to use technology to keep in touch and worship God in the spaces we are in.

Just as Jesus referred to his body as the temple, so we as the people of God are 'church'. You don't always need a church building! We'll talk about this more in our Sundayclub session on zoom. But for now,

Let's talk to God:

Jesus, you said you would build the Temple again in three days.

This week, inspire us to build your kingdom here where we live.

Amen.

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/22093/7-march-2021-activity-sheet.pdf>