



A Moment of Collective Worship.

Theme:	'One Less Lonely Voice.'
Gathering:	"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Hymn / Song / Music:	Do Not Be Afraid. By Gerald Markland. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAdRk9cIRIo
Reading:	Israel Assured of God's Help. - Isaiah 41:8-13
Something To Reflect On:	<p>Our country has been living in lockdown for over three and a half months now due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This has meant that households have not been able to mix with other households. This has been very difficult for some people, particularly people who do not live in happy families, for some people where they are the only adult or only child in a household and for some who live on their own. Over the past twelve weeks many of these people living in lockdown have experienced feelings of isolation and loneliness. From last weekend, in England the government changed their lockdown policy to allow support bubbles. If someone lives by themselves or are a single parent with dependent children – in other words, if there is only one adult in the home – they can create a support network so that it includes one other household of any size. This way of connecting with one other household is called making a 'support bubble' and means the people that are a part of it are able to meet indoors or out, see each other without social distancing measures and stay overnight, as they could if they were members of the same household.</p> <p>This change is designed to provide extra support to some of those most impacted by the current social restrictions. Once people are in a support bubble, they can think of themselves as in a single household. However once bubbles have been formed, they can't be changed or adjusted because of the current necessity of restricting numbers of people mixing. This is Loneliness Awareness Week. Loneliness is an important issue that we need to be mindful of; even before the Coronavirus pandemic, nine million people said they often or always felt lonely. As members of our church school family, we need to remember people both in our church community and wider community who may not have immediate family to meet up with or for support. This Coronavirus time is a real opportunity for us as members of a church school to think about how now and in the future, post-Coronavirus, we can support some of those more vulnerable members of our community. The church community, of which the church school is part, is made up of families of all shapes and sizes, including many single people that live alone, single parents and others. It's an exciting opportunity to see, creatively, how that can be responded to. Just like we can blow bubbles and watch them spread out into the air around us, so through a new support bubble that we may be in and / or other future ways of supporting others, our attention, concern and compassion can bring comfort, care and love to the lonely and isolated; the Holy Spirit working through us to touch the lives of others. Jeremy Simmons from the charity Faith Action says, "Support bubbles are perhaps a prompt to think of people that may be outside our circle of immediate family but could also be in need of this support, perhaps the challenge to think a bit wider. Obviously, there will need to be a lot of thought put into it . . . But I think there are definitely opportunities there."</p> <p><i>(Please see overleaf for an accompanying picture that can be displayed during this Collective Worship.)</i></p>
A Question To Think About:	What "opportunities" can you think of, for now and after Coronavirus, of how you could support someone who is feeling lonely or isolated, showing the Holy Spirit at work?
Prayers:	The Lord's Prayer.
Closing Prayer:	<p>Father, We thank you that no matter how alone we are, we will always have you. Thank you that you hear everything we think and you understand us. Thank you for those around us, our family, church school family and church family. We pray that this policy of support bubbles helps the most isolated and we pray for normality to return. Amen. <i>(Adapted from Premier Christian News.)</i></p>
Sending Out:	"God of hope, strengthen our hope; God of love, kindle our love so that, in a fragile world, we may be signs of the faith, hope, love which we share in Jesus Christ. Amen."

