



CELEBRATING LENT IN WORSHIP

Lent-Easter Tree

A Lent-Easter Tree can be made by collecting some twiggy branches (no leaves) and arranging them in a container or vase. Fill the vase with small stones to keep branches in place. Add decorations/symbols during the weeks of Lent. You could include the following based on the readings (these readings are based on the Lectionary Year A). This activity could make up part of your children's address or introduction to the Bible readings during Lent.

First Sunday in Lent Hang some small stones or an image of stones to symbolise Jesus' temptation to turn stones into bread.

Second Sunday in Lent When speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus said that he would be "lifted up" just as "Moses lifted up the snake in the desert" (John 3:14; see Numbers 21:4-9). Hang a stick with a pipe cleaner wrapped around it to represent the bronze snake.

Third Sunday in Lent Speaking to the woman at the well, Jesus offered her "living water" to satisfy her life thirsts. Hang this week's symbol, a small bottle of water (an old vanilla essence bottle would be ideal) from your tree.

Fourth Sunday in Lent Before healing a man who had been blind from birth, Jesus said that he was the "light of the world". Hang this week's symbol, a candle, on your tree.

Fifth Sunday in Lent Jesus said that he was the "resurrection and the life", and illustrated that by raising Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus came out of his tomb, still wrapped in his grave clothes. As this week's symbol, hang a rolled-up strip of white cloth or gauze onto your tree.

Palm Sunday Jesus comes to Jerusalem as King. "A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road." As this week's symbol, hang a small palm branch from your tree.

Holy Week during your Holy Week services you could add any of the following: Nails, dice, crown of thorns, wooden cross etc.

Easter Sunday On Easter Saturday remove all the previous symbols and add butterflies, eggs and other symbols of new life. Leave room for members of the congregation to make/decorate a symbol that is added to the tree during your Easter Sunday worship. See page two for Easter decoration template (if needed).



