

## Gathering

Follow the school's normal gathering routines, using words of liturgy which are familiar to students and adults

or

Light a candle and offer the following prayer: 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you'. Response: *and also with you*. (To support pupil understanding of the Christian belief in God as Trinity here, why not light a single candle which has three wicks, lighting them in turn as each 'person' is acknowledged?)

## Engagement

- 1) When is a promise real? God is not the only one to make promises. Lots of people make promises; some serious, some not so serious. Many people make "New Year's Resolutions" which are a kind of promise to yourself. Has anyone ever made a New Year's Resolution?
- 2) You must have had people make promises to you. Has anyone ever broken a promise to you?
- 3) What do you think is important to making a promise real? "Politicians make promises. We have recently had an election when everyone over 18 had a vote. A vote is how you show that you think that the promise the politician's promises about, for instance, climate change are real." Show a picture of a ballot box and form on PowerPoint.
- 4) Does anyone know who is the Prime Minister? Show election video / picture of Keir Starmer on PowerPoint. "So what do you think happens if politicians do not keep their promises? People choose not to vote for them so they lose their power."
- 5) Show picture of Greta Thunberg. "Who is this a picture of, and why do you recognise her? Who would vote for her if you could? Why?" Look for the word TRUST in answers.
- 6) "TRUST is important in making a promise real. You need to be able to TRUST people who make promises." Question: Of the people you know, who do you TRUST to keep a promise they make to you? (Expect: Mum, Dad, sibling, Teacher, Head Teacher, Vicar, friend). "Why do we TRUST these people?"

## Response

- 7) "God has made us lots of promises, just like He made big promises to Jacob". We explored these a few days ago:
  - I will give your descendants this land, and they will spread north, south, east and west;
  - All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your children;
  - I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and;
  - I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

For Christians, all God's promises are special but the best and the biggest are the promises He made through His Son Jesus Christ.

8) "Here are two big promises":

PROMISE 1: JESUS PROMISES TO LOVE US COMPLETELY - 'Those who love me will be loved by my Father, and we will come to them and make our home with them' (John 14: 23)

PROMISE 2: JESUS PROMISES US NEW LIFE - 'I am the way, the truth and the life' (John 14: 6); 'I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.' (John 10: 28)

Christians believe they can TRUST God's promises because He has shown we can trust him. He promised He would send a Saviour, and Christmas and Easter show that He keeps this promise.

Christians believe that God keeps His promises to us so we can trust His promises that He loves us and gives us new life.

Where do you personally stand on these promises? Do you trust God enough to give Him your vote; which we do in our hearts rather than putting a cross on a piece of paper? Christians believe He voted for us with a cross on a hill.

## **Prayer**

God

Thank you for your promises to us.

Strengthen us in our faith in you – help us to trust in you and all that you do for us in this time, in this place.

Amen

## **Sending**

Follow normal sending routines for collective worship.

Play 'Trust in you' by Lauren Daigle as the school community leave:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_aVFVveJNs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_aVFVveJNs)