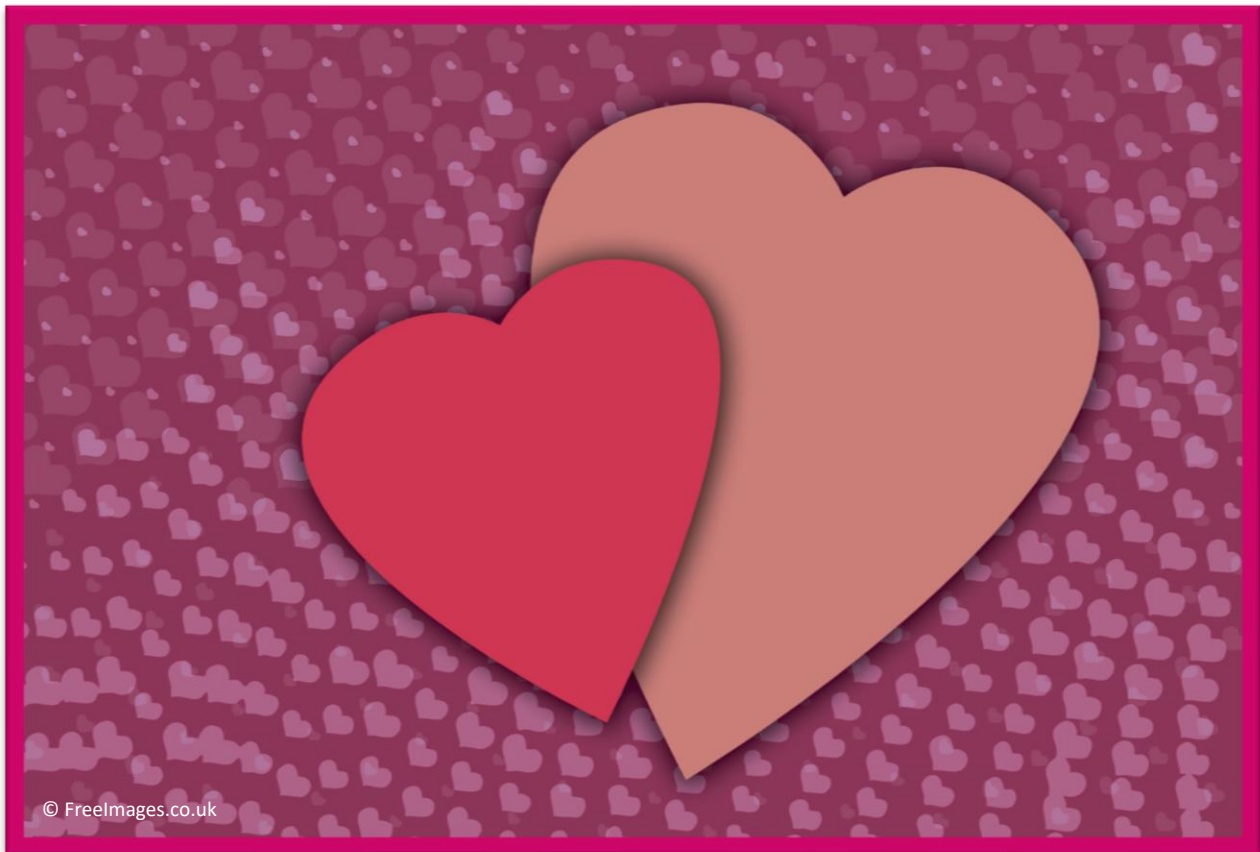


Valentine's Day

Prayers and worship resources on the themes of 'Valentine's Day' – updated January 2014



Valentine's Prayer

At the entrance to Tesco's a woman stands
with a collecting tin and a box of fabric daffodils
reminding us that life is not always
a bed of roses or a box of chocolates.

So as we gather this morning
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult
due to illness and side effects from toxic treatments
or waiting for the results of the latest tests.

As we pass the advertising hording
we see a heart-shaped chocolate box
with a boxing glove instead of a chocolate
reminding us that romantic love is not all it is cracked up to be.

So as we gather this morning
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult
where relationships are broken or full of pain
or where our search for love leaves us feeling rejected and alone.

In the florists we see a loved one's favourite flower
or a wreath of white flowers that spell out a name
or a son's giant sized photo on the side of a pub
the words "our hero" surrounded by red poppies.

So as we gather this morning
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult
those whose loved ones are no longer with us
but are held in your eternal embrace.

And God dries our tears
and smiling reaches out to take our hand
to soothe and caress our broken lives
and slowly make us laugh again.

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The Good Samaritan

A Dancing Story based on the Good Samaritan which can be used to help young children explore themes of love and friendship

A Traveller was going on a long journey from Jericho to Jerusalem.	Traveller walking along sand coloured cloth.
It was a long and dangerous journey as the road was often watched by thieves who hid at the side of the road.	Add thieves to the side of the road.
The traveller struggled along the road, wishing that his bag wasn't so heavy and that the sun wasn't quite so hot.	
He promised himself that he would take a break soon.	
Suddenly a group of men jumped from behind the rocks.	Bring thieves towards traveller.
They beat him up, robbed him and ran away. He was nearly dead.	Have the thieves surround the traveller. Remove the thieves and the traveller's belongings.
When he woke up, the traveller felt very ill. He hoped that somebody would help him.	
At last he saw somebody approaching on the road. He could tell that he was a religious man from the clothes that he was wearing.	Priest approaches the traveller.
"Help me" called the injured man, but the priest walked on pretending that he hadn't seen him. He lay there for what seemed like hours.	Priest walks past the traveller.
Someone else was coming. It was another important person - a lawyer. The lawyer didn't stop to help the traveller either. He just walked on the other side of the road! Sing 'When I Needed a neighbour'?	Lawyer approaches but keeps walking past the traveller.
He had almost given up hope when he heard a donkey coming towards him. He looked up and saw a foreign man, a Samaritan riding towards him. From being a child he had been told to not trust Samaritans and that they were his enemies.	Samaritan rides towards traveller on donkey.
He was surprised when the Samaritan stopped and came over to him.	Samaritan stops and approaches the traveller.
"You're in a bad way, let me help you". The Samaritan gave him some water to drink and helped him onto his donkey!! Sing 'Shalom My Friend'?	Samaritan gives the traveller some water and helps him onto the donkey.
He rode him to the nearest Inn and told the Inn Keeper to look after him until he is better – regardless of the cost.	Ride to an Inn (building)! Inn/Inn-keeper?
The traveller was so grateful. He realised that his real friend was not the priest or the lawyer. His real friend was the man who he thought was his enemy – the Good Samaritan!! Sing 'Welcome, Welcome Today'	Bring back the Priest, Lawyer and Samaritan!

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The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) is changing its legal status from a charitable unincorporated association to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). From 1 January 2020, BUGB will operate as a CIO with registered charity number 1181392

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