

# Acts of Worship

## Virtue: Generosity

### **Virtue to live by:**

I am generous.

I think of others and notice when they need help.

### **Gathering together**

Focal point: Green

Physical examples or images of 'valuables', e.g. iphone, car, house etc also images of famous people, e.g. Marcus Rashford (footballer), Charli d'Amelio (influencer), Taylor Swift (singer)

### **Introduction:**

What is important to us? Discuss some of the images/items on display. What do they 'hold dear' to their hearts? Who do they want to be like? What do they spend their time on? Today we are thinking about our treasures.

### **Word:**

"Do not store up treasures for yourself on earth... But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

### **Response to/reflection on the Word**

What are our treasures? (refer to the images on display) What do we value? What should we value? We should invest in putting God first, in people, in worship, in putting others before ourselves. If we spend our time thinking about material values, can we spend enough time with God and each other? Looking after each other? (refer to previous worship linked to the Beatitudes). We should give of ourselves to others, treasure God's word. Everything we have is a gift from God. What are we thankful for? Being thankful helps us to be generous to others. When we are grateful for what we have, we can share wholeheartedly. What do we treasure that we can share?

*Heavenly Father, help us to value the spent with You and with each other. Help us to think about what is really important in life and give ourselves generously. Amen.*

### **Going forth**

Give each child a picture of a treasure box (below). Children write or draw to show what their treasure is, what they can give to others.

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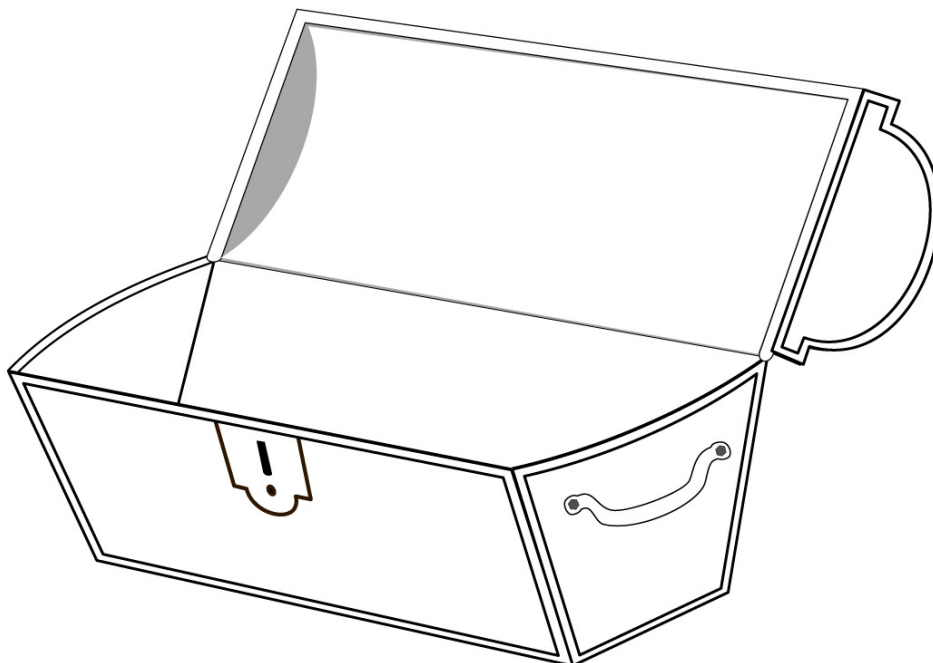
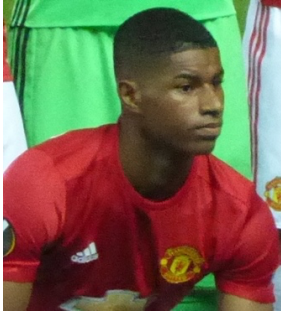
## Ideas for music:

Seek ye first

Sing of the Lord's goodness

A new commandment

Count your blessings



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### **Gathering together**

**Focal point:** Green (if still in ordinary time, purple with Advent wreath if in Advent), Christmas presents, Christmas decorations etc

### **Introduction:**

Explain 're-gifting' to the children. Have they ever given a gift that they didn't want themselves to someone else? What does this tell the person that we have given it to? Do we value the person that we are giving the unwanted gift to? Have we thought about them carefully? Are we giving what we don't really want or need? Something 'spare'? In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells us about an old lady who gives everything she has to God, not just what she has 'spare'.

### **Word: Luke 21:1-4**

Jesus looked around and saw rich people dropping their gifts in the Temple treasury, 2 and he also saw a very poor widow dropping in two little copper coins. 3 He said, "I tell you that this poor widow put in more than all the others. 4 For the others offered their gifts from what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on."

### **Response to/reflection on the Word**

In this story, the old widow actually gave very little in terms of money, certainly not as much as some of the other people. Why then, did Jesus say her gift was more valuable? Because she gave all that she had. What is Jesus' message in this story? Jesus isn't expecting you to hand over all of your pocket money! But what He is asking us to do, is give generously. Whatever it is we have to give, let us give with our whole hearts.

### **Going forth**

Sometimes giving can be hard, it can take a lot from us. What can you give to the person you find it hardest to give to?

### **Ideas for music:**

Amazing Grace

God forgave my sin

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This little light of mine  
Servant King (last verse)  
Make me a channel of your peace  
"Give a Little Bit" by Supertramp

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### **Gathering together**

Focal point: Purple cloth, Advent wreath, Christmas presents, Christmas decorations etc

**Introduction:** What time of year is it? (Hopefully Advent will be the response, but also Christmas!)

At Christmas, we all go out and buy lots of presents for each other. How do you feel if you give a present to someone but they don't give one back? They would be off my Christmas list the next year! In today's reading, Jesus asks us to give freely. What do you think that might mean?

### **Word:**

"Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

### **Response to/reflection on the Word**

When Jesus tells us to give freely, He asks us to give generously, without expectation of anything in return, just as He did. When He died for us on the cross, when He healed people, when He taught them, He did all this without asking anything in return. How can we follow this example? We give to others, we should give with a generous heart, not because we want something in return. Unlike us, God does not expect gifts back. He loves us no matter what. How does this make you feel? God loved us so much, He gave us Jesus, Jesus loved us so much, He gave us Himself on the cross – what can YOU give each other?

### **Going forth**

Give the children the present drawing. Ask them to think of their gift to someone – could it be their time, their love, their patience? Ask the children for their ideas. None of these 'gifts' should cost any money! Remind the children that they should give without asking for anything in return. Put the drawings in a gift box for display in class to remind them of what they can give to others.

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### Ideas for music:

God forgave my sin

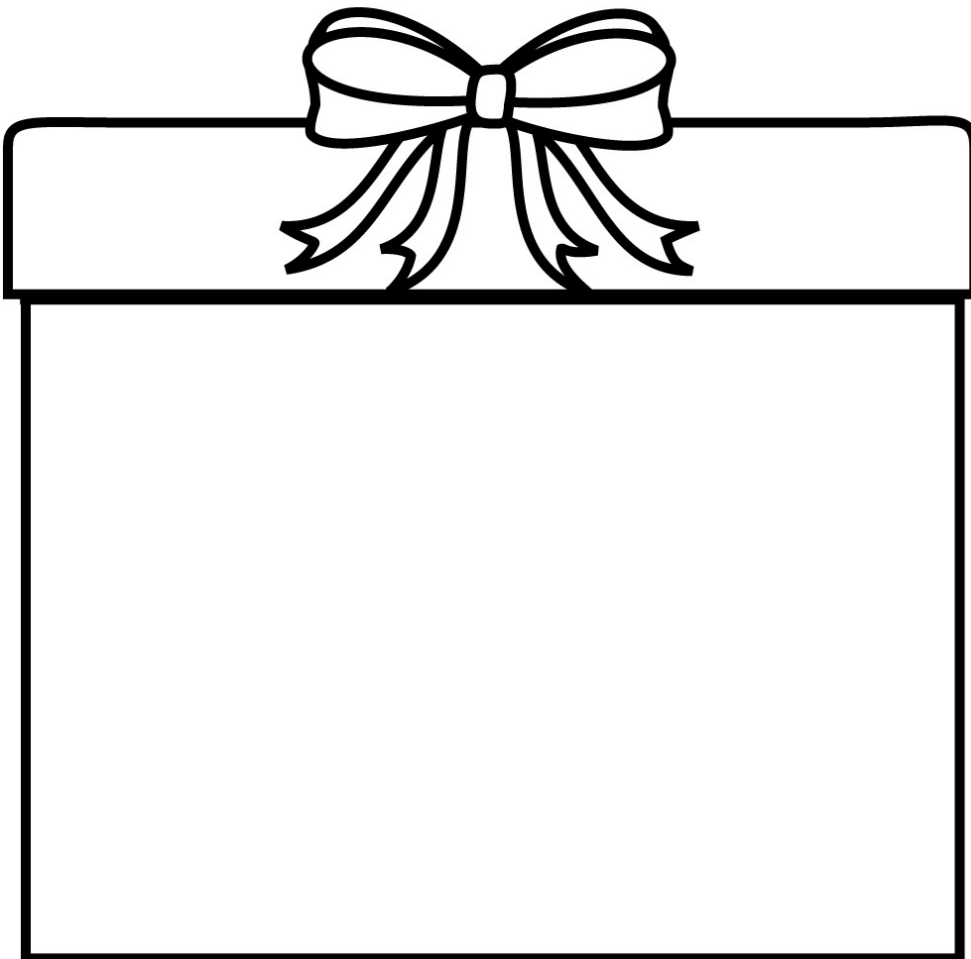
Jesus says love everybody

Rejoice, rejoice the Lord is coming

Rejoice in the Lord always

My lighthouse, Rend Collective

Fischy Music 'God's Christmas light'



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Photo of Marcus Rashford by Ardfern

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Photo of Charli D'Amelio from Charli D'Amelio in a hair makeover in [2020](#).

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