

# Planning



Sunday, September 15 – Saturday, September 21 • 2019

SUN 15

14th Sunday after Pentecost  
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Proper 19 (24)  
Season of Creation 3

MON 16

TUES 17

WED 18

THUR 19

FRI 20

SAT 21

International Day of Peace  
St. Matthew

## Things to keep in mind this week...

## Planning ahead...

## Season of Creation (Year C)

Job 28:20–27

### Psalm 29

The focus for age-level materials

1 Corinthians 1:21–31

Luke 8:22–25



Resources based on  
semi-continuous

readings of the Revised Common  
Lectionary can be found in the RCL  
folder.

**Liturgical colour:**  
aqua

*Lection Connection* links  
current events with this  
week's scriptures. Go to [www.seasonsonline.ca](http://www.seasonsonline.ca) and click on  
the link.

## Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Bulgaria, Hungary,  
Romania

Based on *In God's Hands:  
Common Prayer for the World*,  
ed. By Hugh McCullum and  
Terry MacArthur (Geneva:  
World Council of Churches,  
2006).

## September 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

August 2019							October 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		





Job 28:20–27

Psalm 29

The focus in the age-level materials

1 Corinthians 1:21–31

Luke 8:22–25



Resources based on semi-continuous readings of the Revised Common Lectionary can be found in the RCL folder.

# Storm Sunday

In ancient times people of most cultures, not understanding the intricate workings of things such as weather or health, tended to see God at work in all of it. If someone got sick, it was punishment from God for something. If there was “bad” weather (which could be almost anything), it was seen again as God’s punishment. Nowadays, many of us tend to be reluctant to do that, for we can more readily understand the logic behind air pressure, or bacteria, or the other factors that so easily influence the weather and our health. One might even wonder, who needs faith? Except that faith doesn’t really have any connection to such things, other than the solid awareness that God is with us, no matter what.

Job 28:20–27 reminds us that God is “in charge.” A refreshing insight, however, comes from the fact that the passage echoes many of the sentiments of the creation story in Proverbs 8:22–31, wherein Wisdom assists God in the very act of creating. In Job, we learn that God understands Wisdom, knows who she is, and is vital for human understanding of God. God says to us, “the fear [a better word would probably be “esteem” or “awe”] of God is wisdom; turning from evil is understanding” (verse 28, Common English Bible).

One of the oldest psalms, Psalm 29 can cause difficulties for modern readers. Written at a time when everything was seen as a direct result of God’s actions, God is in turn regarded as the one whose “voice is over the waters” and who “unleashes fiery flames.” For those who struggle with floods and wildfires, this can be disconcerting. Taking a step back from the psalm and looking at a wider picture can be helpful.

Far more important than seeing God as the source of all storms and violent natural activity, is seeing God as present with us in all of it, and this is how the psalm concludes: Let God give strength to the people and bless the people with peace.

Storms are *not* a result of God’s anger due to human behaviour; such assumptions are naïve at best and both hurtful and damaging at the other extreme. Yet they happen, sometimes bringing huge amounts of disaster in their wake. Sometimes they are caused by human activity – wildfires, for example, can be caused by someone tossing a cigarette

God, some of us find it easy to praise you for good things and are reluctant to blame you for negative things. Others of us are just the opposite, seeing your hand in all manner of evil, yet hesitating to see the good you do in our world. Maybe neither is the point: maybe you are simply our God, and you promise to be with us in good and bad, in sunshine and in rain, in the day and in the night. Amen.

on the ground, or sparks from a poorly serviced vehicle, or a discarded glass bottle; floods are frequently caused by climate change – and yet at other times simply occur naturally. Through it all, however, God is with us, both comforting us in the midst of difficulty, and challenging us to do all we can to preserve the Earth.

This idea of knowing God not through intellectual exercise but through wisdom – ironically, described here as the “foolishness of faith” – is central to 1 Corinthians 1:21–31. Logically, one can poke all sorts of holes in religious faith; but the very thing – faith itself – reminds us that logic doesn’t really have a place here. Knowing God, and knowing God is with us, can, in fact, be far more important than the seemingly pointless exercise of arguing the worth or value or existence of God. Similarly, we are reminded that Jesus became wisdom (which may or may not deserve a capital letter here) for our sake; Jesus brings God’s wisdom close to home.

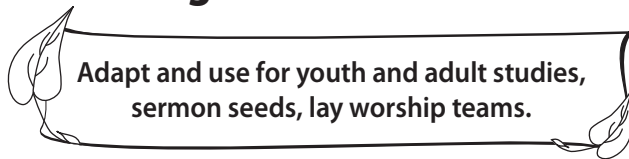
In Luke 8:22–25 Jesus calms a storm that threatens the lives of the disciples (and Jesus) on a boat in the lake. Seeming to bring the readings for today full circle, this story reminds us that Jesus – like God – is “in charge” of the natural forces of the world.

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Today’s readings focus on the dual theme of seeing God present and powerful in our world and recognizing that God’s wisdom is different than we might have at first thought. For example, one can see the gospel story as a straightforward story of Jesus calming a storm, and this can be encouraging for us should we find ourselves on a boat with him, albeit sleeping but physically present. However, the story becomes much richer and beneficial if we step back and see it metaphorically: we can immediately recognize Jesus with us in the many “storms” of life, comforting us perhaps, affirming us, and challenging us when necessary. Does God’s wisdom enable us to understand the nature of the storm and its effect on our lives? Probably not. But God’s wisdom – through the foolishness of our own faith – can empower us in the greatest of upheavals. How is God present in the stormy moments of your life? How does knowing that God is with you get you through?



## Reflecting on the Word



### Materials

1 [Corinthians 1:21–31: The Voice™](#) (p. 57)

### Connecting with life

Think of storms in your life: natural, political, personal.

- **What sustained you?**
- **What did your experience teach about how to weather new storms?**
- **“Storms may be events that frighten us, but they are also events that we celebrate in the weather cycle that sustains Earth as a living planet” ([seasonofcreation.com](#)). Discuss.**

### Scripture

**Job 28:20–27**

Read the creation story in Proverbs 8:22–31. This one of the scriptures readings for next week, and will be explored then, but it helps provide context for this reading from Job. Note the presence of Wisdom in the Proverbs story. Then read Job 28:20–27.

- **How are these passages connected?**
- **Who is Wisdom?**
- **What does it mean that God “understands” the way, the nature, and the place of Wisdom in the order of things?**
- **We are advised that turning from evil is understanding. What insights do you gain when you turn from doing something you consider wrong?**

**Psalms 29** presents God as “enthroned,” and invites us to give God glory for all God’s great majesty.

- **How do you respond to, relate to, reconcile the image of God portrayed in this psalm?**
- **Do you find it comforting, affirming, problematic, or...?**
- **What does it mean to think of God as having power over the natural forces of the world?**
- **Throughout the psalm, God is portrayed as a storm God. How do you experience God’s role in the universe?**

- **When a storm is present, where do you see God present in it?**

### 1 Corinthians 1:21–31

Read 1 Corinthians 1:21–31 from the translation called *The Voice* (page 57).

- **The translators added the words “dynamic” and “deep” to the text. How is this helpful?**
- **What does it mean that Jesus “embodies God’s dynamic power and God’s deep wisdom”?**

Paul, the author of this text, seems bent on showing that left to our own devices we could not understand God or the world. But through God’s intervention, we can.

- **How does your faith help you make sense of things?**

**Luke 8:22–25** Here, Jesus, in tune with nature, controls a terrifying storm and brings calm.

- **If this story is read literally, what does it reveal?**
- **If the story is read as metaphor, what does it teach?**
- **How is Christ present in the storms of life?**

### Connecting scripture and life

“With the advent of global warming, the weather patterns are changing. This warming has not only caused the Arctic and Antarctic circles to start melting and the water levels of the ocean to rise. The warming process has also increased the temperature of key channels and currents in the oceans of the world, currents that affect the weather pattern. The number and kind of storms across the globe are beginning to increase the threaten many habitats. Storms are on the increase” ([seasonofcreation.com](#)).

- **Where can Wisdom be found in response to the effects of global warming?**
- **To what is Wisdom asking of us in the care for Earth?**

## Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

That God is present in our world is primarily understood as a given by most people of faith. But *how* do we experience the presence of God? Does it make “sense”? Storms are a force of nature that affects us all. When homes, communities, and lives are ravaged by storms, it brings questions. For many, personal storms of grief or illness or

addiction cause the same sense of powerlessness. Yet we are told that somehow Wisdom invites us to see things differently. Rather than wondering why God did not prevent something from happening – or worse still, thinking that God, in fact, caused it – how might our faith empower us to find our way through the storms of life?



# Storm Sunday

## Prepare

**NOTE:** All of these suggestions are mere starting points; adapt, delete, and add according to your local needs.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing Psalm 29. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller, to present “[The Voice of God](#)” on p. 58, or “[Stormy Weather All Around](#)” (on the children’s activity leaflet at the end of this week’s materials). For paraphrase, arrange for someone to present “[When the Storm Strikes](#)” on p. 57.
- ❑ Bring items for setting the worship space.
- ❑ Practice making a storm as described in the opening prayer. An example can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29qaN0M0o0s>.
- ❑ You might choose to print [Milford Sound, New Zealand](#) on or in your bulletin (in the Images to Project and Print folder). For background to the art and artist, see “[Connecting with the Art](#)” on p. 8.
- ❑ Bring song such as “[The Earth Is Our Cradle](#)” p. 7.
- ❑ Set [stations](#) as described on p. 59–60.



## Music Suggestions

### [The Earth Is Our Cradle](#)

Christopher New; *page 7*

### [God Is Our Shelter](#)

Chris O'Hara; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 8*

### [Never Give Up/Bambelela](#)

Traditional South African; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 5*

### [I Want Jesus to Go with Me](#)

Traditional African American; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 2*

### [Guide My Feet](#)

(consider replacing “while I run this race” with “while I weather the storm”)  
Traditional African-American; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 2*

### [God Remind Us You Still Trust Us](#)

Carolyn Winifred Gillette

### [When the Storms of Life Are Raging](#)

Charles Albert Tindley

### [Been in the Storm So Long](#)

African-American spiritual



A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at [www.seasonsonline.ca](http://www.seasonsonline.ca). Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

## Gather

### Call to worship

**ONE:** God is present with us in all kinds of storms. Let's make a storm together:

*Invite the congregation to join you in making a storm, moving from gentle to loud and back to gentle. Begin by softly rubbing hands together and get louder and faster. Then move to snapping fingers, again moving to loud and fast. Switch to slapping thighs, softly, then rapidly; lastly, stomp feet on the floor. After a few seconds of doing this, reverse the process, so that you end up with a very quiet rain as at the beginning.*

**ONE:** Even the loudest and most frightening of storms can be brought to an end.

**ALL: And God is with us through all of it.**

**ONE:** Come, let us worship God.

### Opening prayer

God of wind and rain, of lightning and snow, of wildfire and flood:

sometimes we are overwhelmed

by the forces of nature around us,

that seem to rail against us.

Beyond that, people sometimes say

that storms and disasters are caused by you,  
and are sent to teach us things, or as punishment.

Help us to discern the truth,

and to know that you, our Creator God,

do not seek to destroy us, but invite us

to co-create with you, that the world might be a place  
where all can live in harmony and safety. Amen.



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## Worship Outline • September 15, 2019

### Prayer of confession

Great Creator,  
day by day we become more aware  
of the havoc that plagues our planet.  
We know that we play a part  
in all that goes on around here;  
we know that human actions  
often lead to some of the storms and disasters  
we so often want to blame on you.  
Forgive us, and help us to take better care

of the wonderful and amazing world  
you have given us. Amen.

### Words of affirmation

**ONE:** God reminds us that to depart from evil is to gain understanding. So know that whenever we turn away from the things we have been doing, and turn towards God, we gain insight and understanding, and we re-align our will with that of our Creator.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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## Engage

### Opening the word

#### 1 Corinthians 1:21–31

*This version of the reading is taken from Good as New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures.*

God has outwitted those who set store by their intelligence, by ruling out intelligence as the means of discovering God. Instead, God has chosen to give life to those who accept what seems to be a foolish tale. Those of the Jewish religion always want clear proof before they believe in anything, whereas the Greek thinkers try to work out a system of belief by using their minds. But we talk about God's Chosen on a cross. That's the opposite of the proof the Jews are looking for, and an insult to the intelligence of the Greeks. But to God's friends, whether Jews or Greeks, it's God's stroke of genius.

God playing the fool outwits the highest human mind, and God becoming weak defeats the greatest human strength. Just think, sisters and brothers, what sort of people you were before you became the friends of God. Not many of you were intelligent as society rates intelligence; not many of you were people of influence; not many of you were from the ruling classes. God chose the simple in the community to make fools of the clever; God chose the weak of the world to bring the strong to their knees; God chose the failures and outcasts of society, people regarded as nobodies, to bring the accepted order crashing to the

ground. No one can show off in front of God. God has given you Jesus as your friend. He's God's bright idea. He restores our relationship with God and gives us status and freedom. So, as the old book says, "If you must show off, let people know what God has done for you."

*from Good as New: a Radical Retelling of the Scriptures  
by John Henson. © 2004 O Books.*

### Moving into Psalm 29 the focus scripture for age-level materials in ENCORE

There may be a fine line between proclaiming God to be the powerful one of the universe and making God the scapegoat for all manner of storm and disaster. How can we recognize God as being the great and powerful presence in our world without laying blame for all that goes wrong in our world?

Choose from the following.

**Bible story** Have a storyteller present the story "[The Voice of God](#)" (p. 58). Alternatively, for younger children, arrange for a storyteller to present the story "[Stormy Weather All Around](#)" (on the children's activity leaflet at the end of this week's materials).

**Paraphrase** Arrange for a reader to present "[When the storm strikes](#)" by James Taylor on p. 57.

Invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations. Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word.

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## Respond

After proclaiming the word, you might invite those who have not already done so to move to and around the stations, taking ten minutes or so with a chosen practice.

**Sing** or listen to a song "[The Earth Is Our Cradle](#)" (p. 7).



## Prayers of the people

Great God of storms,  
help us to feel your presence  
in all the different storms we experience.  
Help us, also, to be present in storms.  
May we be rain, to wash and nourish the Earth,  
bringing hope and comfort to your hurting people.  
May we be wind, to clean and refresh the Earth,  
to blow the power of your justice  
into the cracks and corners of our world.  
May we be fire, to renew and energize  
the weak places all around us.

May we be upheaval in places of injustice,  
calling to account those who wreak havoc on others  
and who damage the Earth without a care in the world.  
Great God of storms,  
help us to be your storms in our world. Amen.

## Prayer of dedication or offering prayer

We marvel, Holy One, at your power in our midst. We marvel  
at your ability to calm storms and bring comfort and strength  
to us when we feel weak and powerless. Take now these  
gifts we offer, and use them to transform your world. Amen.

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## Bless

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The prophet Elijah  
did not find God in great storms  
but in the sound of sheer silence.  
Go forth to find God  
in the seemingly empty places all around you.

Know that God is present in every storm,  
and in every quiet,  
and in all times in between. Amen.

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## Special Days Commentary

### September 21 – International Peace Day

The first Peace Day was celebrated in 1982 and was held on the third Tuesday of September each year until 2002, when September 21 became the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. The United Nations assembly declared that the day should be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. Plan a social activity at church (potluck supper, game night, dessert and coffee) where all ages can join together over the theme of peace. Contact denominational or ecumenical agencies to learn about ways your church can be involved in peace-making activities.

### September 21 – St. Matthew

Called Levi in the gospels of Mark and Luke, Matthew was a toll or tax collector. Such individuals raised money to maintain the occupying Roman army, and tax collectors were paid a commission or percentage of the money they took in. Thus it was generally assumed – although not necessarily true – that they were cheats, and they were regarded as outcasts if they could not meet the purity regulations of the temple. Yet Jesus called people like Matthew, and in doing so modelled the way his followers were to be accepting of those rejected by others.

Matthew is considered the patron saint of accountants, bankers, bookkeepers, customs officers, security forces, security guards, stockbrokers, and tax collectors.



# 1 Corinthians 1:21–31

## The Voice (VOICE)

<sup>21</sup> For in God's deep wisdom, He made it so that the world could not even begin to comprehend Him through its own style of wisdom; in fact, God took immense pleasure in rescuing people of faith through the foolishness of the message we preach. <sup>22</sup> It seems the Jews are always asking for signs and the Greeks are always on the prowl for wisdom. <sup>23</sup> But we tell a different story. We proclaim a crucified Jesus, God's Anointed. For Jews this is scandalous, for outsiders<sup>[a]</sup> this is moronic, <sup>24</sup> but for those of us living out God's call – regardless of our Jewish or Greek heritage – we know the Anointed embodies God's dynamic power and God's deep wisdom. <sup>25</sup> You can count on this: God's foolishness will always be wiser than mere human wisdom, and God's weakness will always be stronger than mere human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Look carefully at your call, brothers and sisters. By human standards, not many of you are deemed to be wise. Not many are considered powerful. Not many of

you come from royalty, right? <sup>27</sup> But celebrate this: God selected the world's foolish to bring shame upon those who think they are wise; likewise, He selected the world's weak to bring disgrace upon those who think they are strong. <sup>28</sup> God selected the common and the castoff, whatever lacks status so He could invalidate the claims of those who think those things are significant. <sup>29</sup> So it makes no sense for any person to boast in God's presence. <sup>30</sup> Instead, credit God with your new situation: you are united with Jesus the Anointed. He is God's wisdom for us and more. He is our righteousness and holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> As the Scripture says: "If someone wants to boast, he should boast in the Lord."<sup>[b]</sup>

*Scripture is taken from The Voice™.  
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## PSALM 29

### When the storm strikes

*We tend to grow complacent about our own capabilities – until a hurricane roars in from the ocean, or a flood surges down the valley, or a forest fire rages out of control.*

- 1 Trust God – don't pin your faith on human potential.  
2 **Science and technology, wealth and popularity –  
these will all pass away.**  
Only God is worthy of lasting worship.  
3 **Fame and fortune will not save you when the tempest strikes.**  
The winds whirl in; waves crash upon your comfortable shore.  
4 **Houses collapse like cards;  
corporations crumble; assets become worthless.**  
5 Branches break off; mighty empires are uprooted.  
6 **Possessions, wealth, and status cannot save you.**  
8 You stand alone before the power of God,  
as naked and helpless as the day you were born.  
9 **You tremble like a twig in a tempest.**  
All that you depended upon is stripped away,  
like the last leaves from autumn trees.  
10 **Before God's power, you face your own frailty.**  
Nothing can save you – except God.  
11 Only God is greater than any human crisis.  
**Only God can sustain you through the storm,  
and carry you to the calm on the other side.**

*Everyday Psalms by James Taylor;  
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James Taylor, Wood Lake Publishing Inc.  
Used by permission.*



# The Voice of God

Based on Psalm 29

The night air still felt charged with electricity, and the earth smelled damp as the stars began to wink in the sky. The clouds had moved past, and the storm was over.

David sat under a large tree, the same tree he raced to when the storm first surprised him while he was out walking. It came up suddenly. The temperature dropped and the evening grew cool as a strong wind blew across the rocky shoreline, twisting the trees, foaming the waves, and cloaking the sunset in large purple clouds. A crack of lightning over the sea sent David diving under a tree, just as the heavy drops of rain began to pound the earth. David felt a little afraid, but he knew God was with him, all around him. He pulled out his small harp. Singing always helped him calm down and would be a good way to wait out the storm.

David sang:

Give credit to God,  
And worship God's holy splendour.

The voice of God thunders over the waters;  
The voice of God is powerful, full of majesty.

The voice of God breaks the mighty cedars;  
The voice of God flashes forth and shakes the wilderness.

God sits enthroned over the high waters and will reign forever.  
May God give strength to the people, may God bless the people with peace!

And just as the last notes of David's song rang out, the last rumble of thunder rolled in the distance, and the leaves of the tree above grew still. David sat for a bit longer, enjoying the sounds of the now calmer waters lapping against the stones. Finally, as the moon climbed high in the sky, David stood and stretched and headed for home.

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.



## Bible story

**Materials** recording of today's story "The Voice of God," player, paper, crayons, pencils, a copy of the [directions](#) displayed where all can see; alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story

## The practice of storytelling

### Directions

1. Listen to the story "The Voice of God."
2. Write or draw some of your reactions to this story.

**Younger children** What does a storm look like? What colours are in the storm? Draw a storm that you have experienced or seen on television or at the movies.



## Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space or in other places around the church. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the [directions](#).

For your convenience, instructions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.

The article "[Connecting with the Art](#)" on page 8 provides some background to the two posters for Season of Creation, Pentecost 2 and some art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might choose to add an Art Engagement station each week, using one of the art engagement ideas.

### Pinwheel

**Materials** square pieces of paper (about 20 cm/8 in), ruler, pencil, crayons or felt markers, scissors, unsharpened pencils with eraser ends, map pins, buttons, copy of the [directions](#) displayed where all can see

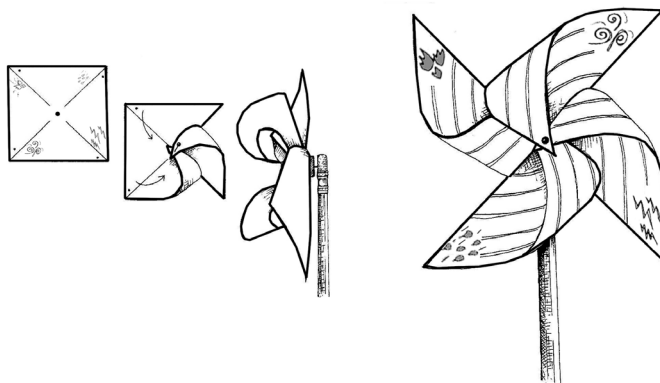


#### The practice of celebrating God's presence

##### Directions

God is with us no matter what kind of storms are around us. A pinwheel can remind us that we do not see God, but God is still with us.

1. Draw a straight line from each corner across the paper, forming a large "x." At each corner, mark a dot on one side of the line – mark it on the same side of each line (see illustration).
2. Colour or decorate the square. In the corners that do not have dots, you might want to draw something that illustrates a storm (rain, wind, fire, etc.).
3. Cut along the lines toward the middle, being sure to leave about 6 mm/¼ in uncut in each direction (so there is a space about 1 cm/½ in wide that is not cut).
4. Place pin through one dot and curve it toward the middle; do this with the other corners one by one, poking the pin through each dot as it is curved inwards.
4. Poke the pin through a hole in the button, and then into the eraser of the pencil.
6. Blow gently on the pinwheel and watch it spin around.



### Comfort pillow

**Materials** large tube socks, wooden hearts (or cut hearts from thick cardboard), markers (that will work on fabric), cloth scraps or fibrefill stuffing, coloured yarn or narrow ribbon, copy of the [directions](#) displayed where all can see



#### The practice of reminding ourselves of God's presence with us, even in storms

##### Directions

Even though we cannot see God, we can feel God present with us, which can be very important in times of storms.

1. Place the heart shape in the toe of the sock.
2. Decorate the sock with the markers.
3. Stuff the sock with cloth scraps or fibrefill, leaving about a 5 cm/2 in space at the top.
4. Tie around the top with coloured yarn or ribbon.

## Bubble prints

**Materials** sheets of grey construction paper, sheets of plastic bubble wrap (about the same size as the construction paper), tempera paint in rainbow colours (or at least in bright, cheerful colours), small paint brushes, wet cloths for cleanup. Paint smocks are a good idea for younger children.



**Suitable for all ages**

## The practice of celebrating God's presence

### Directions

The Bible tells us the rainbow is a sign of hope.

1. Resist the temptation to pop the bubbles, or this will not work very well!
2. Using a small paintbrush, paint a rainbow on some of the bubbles – this could be arc-shaped, or simply in a diagonal. If possible use the traditional colours of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, or something similar.
3. Lay a blank sheet of paper on the top of the painted bubbles and gently rub, making a print from the bubbles. Several prints can usually be made before you need to repaint.
4. When the prints have all been made, wipe the bubble wrap with a wet, soapy cloth – it can be used again.

## In awe of the storm

**Materials** Bibles, or copies of Psalm 29 and Luke 8:22–25, and copies of the Bible story “The Voice of God” for younger children; assortment of coloured paper and magazine pages; one plain white sheet of paper for each person; glue, a copy of the directions displayed where all can see



**Suitable for all ages working together**

## The practice of creativity

### Directions

1. Choose a text to read, Psalm 29 or Luke 8:22–25.
2. Recall times when have been in awe of/amazed by the power of a storm?
3. Create a picture of a storm, without drawing or using scissors. Like a stained glass window, tear pieces of paper into small shreds of “glass” and make a picture. It can be abstract or realistic.
4. Have a show-and-tell afterwards.

## Conserving energy

**Materials** several dark-coloured pieces of fabric (blues, purples, greys, greens, reds) arranged in swirls in the middle of the table; photographs of storms and the aftermath of storms on *all* creation placed on the fabric – think plants, animals, land, and humans (you could find these in nature magazines, news magazines/web-sites, or on the websites of organisations that do climate change-related work or disaster relief), paper; pens and pencils; sticky notes; copy of the directions displayed where all can see



**Suitable for all ages working together**

## The practice of creation care

### Directions

We come to this station thinking about how human contributions to global warming (especially excesses of energy and fossil fuels) affect climate change and play a role in intensifying storms and weather in our world.

1. Take some time to think of ideas that will help us protect all that God has created.
2. Take a few moments to look at the images on the table. Recall images of storms that you have experienced or seen in the media.
3. Write ways you might be part of protecting creation from intensifying storms by conserving energy, therefore reducing emissions that contribute to global warming on sticky notes, and place the sticky notes on the images. Here are some ideas to get you started: Walk, ride your bike, take public transport, carpool, replace light bulbs with bulbs that use less energy, make energy efficient choices when buying appliances, switch off lights when leaving the room, invite a speaker from climate change organization to a special church event.
4. Write a short prayer for the parts of creation that have suffered from intensifying storms.
5. Add that to the display.



# CREATE

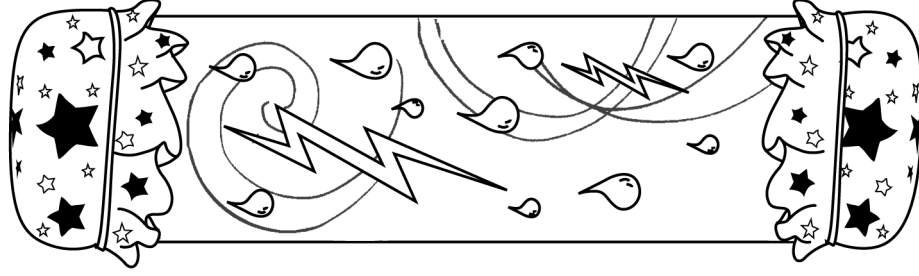
## Rain sticks

### You will need

- long cardboard tube
- markers
- stickers
- coloured vinyl tape
- scissors
- stapler
- ribbon or crepe paper streamers (cut into 60 cm/ 24 in lengths)
- cup of small gravel

### Instructions

1. Decorate your cardboard tube with markers and stickers.
2. Staple ribbons or streamers to one end, and seal with the vinyl tape.
3. Carefully pour a cup of gravel into the tube and cover the other end with tape.
4. Gently tip your "rain stick" back and forth and hear the sound of rain and see the streamers move.



# STORY TIME

## Stormy Weather All Around

It was playtime at school and all the children were outside. Some were running and playing tag. Some were singing and swinging. Some were bouncing balls and skipping.

The teacher looked up at the sky. It was starting to change and there were clouds in the sky. There were more and more clouds. All the children and the teachers could feel the wind begin to blow.

"Children" called the teacher, "come inside. The clouds are gathering. The wind is blowing. I think a storm is coming."

As the children started to walk to the door of the school, they felt some raindrops.

"Hurry, everyone," called the teacher. "The clouds are sending some rain."

Just as the children and their teacher got inside the school, they heard a big noise.

BANG! CRASH!

"What was that?" asked a girl. "I don't like that sound!" said a boy.

"Don't worry," said the teacher.

"That was some thunder and lightning. We are safe inside now. Let's sit down and listen to the storm."

The children and the teacher sat together in a circle and watched and listened to the storm outside. They saw the great big clouds. They saw the rain falling. They saw the lightning flash. They saw the trees blowing in the wind.

Everyone said, "We're so glad to be safe inside during the storm!"

Soon the storm started to pass. The rain stopped falling, the wind stopped blowing, and the lightning stopped flashing.

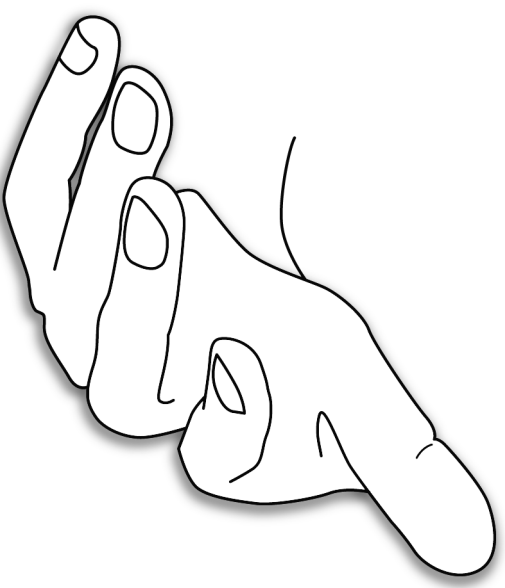
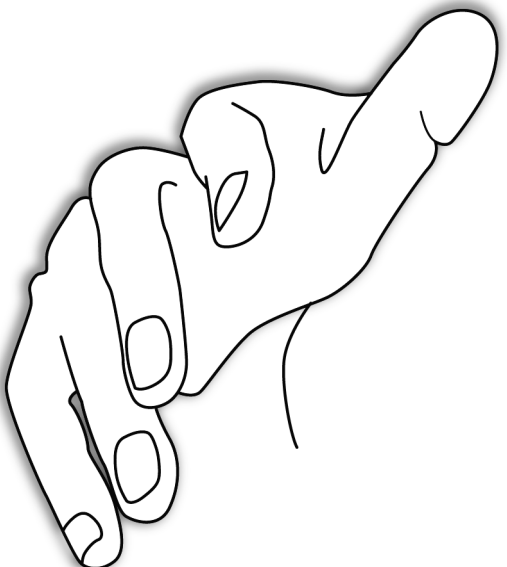
"Here comes the sun again!" said the teacher. "The storm is over. Let's go back outside and play."



# ACTIVITY

## We can tell God we're afraid

We should remember that we can talk with God when we feel afraid and God hears us. Draw something that makes you feel afraid or a time when you were afraid. Say this prayer to God. "God, sometimes I am afraid. I know that you hear me when I am afraid."



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