

Sanctuary First

May 2011

Theme Summary

Roll Away The Stone

We see this theme as being a call to revolution. A call to let the power of the Holy Spirit unblock our minds and our attitudes so that we can let the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ shape our every day lives and change the world around us.

| Item | Notes |
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| LEADER | <p>“Roll away the stone” invites us to become gospel stones, living witnesses to resurrection. This means we are called to be open to the idea of discovery in areas of faith, to be inspired to live as people of resurrection when hope is almost gone, to engage with the creativity of the Gospel story, to reconcile the irreconcilable, and to begin to celebrate the importance of this story of resurrection for our faith communities across the world.</p> |
| AREA ONE | <p>Create an area of discovery</p> <p>Invite people to take a stone and write discovery on it. Holding this stone in one hand gather into groups of three or four and read through a section of the gospel (e.g The story of the lost son). Then write a word on the other side of the stone that speaks of a point of discovery in the story for you or a character in the story. e.g what have you discovered about the story that relates to you or a situation you know about.</p> |
| AREA TWO | <p>Create an area of creativity in the Church</p> <p>Invite people to work in groups of three. They have a piece of paper on which is written a scenario where someone needs to experience hope. Using the materials at hand they have to find a way to bring hope into the situation.</p> <p>Depending on the materials, you could paint a picture together, or make a card for someone. Perhaps paint a stone with a message of hope on it, or make a friendship bracelet.</p> |
| AREA THREE | <p>Create an area of inspiration in the church</p> <p>Continue in the groups of three or four move to the area in the church where you find pictures, books, paintings, perhaps a short video clip that describes an inspirational moment. Or share a text from the bible or a personal story or a story from a book or real life that is inspirational. Ask one another how we can become inspirational people ?</p> |

| Item | Notes | |
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| | (Stones and other artifacts are brought into the centre of the church and placed on a table. Try and prepare a flat space for the communion elements. Everyone gathers round in a circle. The bread and wine are brought forward.) | |
| COMMUNION | Leader | We place these symbols of creativity and discovery on the table to remind us of our need to be open to the creating Spirit of God. |
| | People | Forgive us for we have turned our freedom and creativity into controlling conformity and turned Stones into bread and bread into stones |
| | Leader | We place this bread alongside our creativity to remind us we cannot live by bread alone. |
| | People | Forgive us for we have turned our freedom and creativity into controlling conformity and stones into bread and bread into stones. |
| | Leader | We place these stones of hope and symbols of compassion upon each other to remind us we are called to bear each others burdens. |
| | People | Forgive us for we have turned our freedom and creativity into controlling conformity and stones into bread and bread into Stones. |
| | Leader | We place this wine alongside these stones of inspiration to remind us of blood shed and a stone rolled away. |
| | People | Forgive us for we have turned our freedom and creativity into controlling conformity and stones into bread and bread into Stones. |
| | Leader | We place these stones upon each other to remind us we are called to be living stones. |
| | People | Forgive us for we have turned our freedom and creativity into controlling conformity and stones into bread and bread into Stones. |
| | Leader | We place these stones upon each other to remind us we are being built into a Holy Temple. |

| Item | Notes | |
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| | People | Forgive us for we have turned our freedom and creativity into controlling conformity and stones into bread and bread into Stones. |
| | Leader | Come Holy Spirit bring us to life through Your Word of Truth. |
| | People | Forgive us for we have turned our freedom and creativity into controlling conformity and stones into bread and bread into Stones. |
| | Leader | Come Holy Spirit descend on us. May this wine bring to us your life giving Joy. |
| | People | Your word alone is the wine of heaven. |
| LEADER | Leader invites the people to share the peace of God with each other. | |
| | Leader | God our Father defender and deliverer, protect us from all the attacks of the evil one when we face temptation. Give us the strength to resist. Do not let the seed of your word be stolen from our hearts. |
| | People | <i>Help us Guard the Good Creatively</i> |
| | Leader | Holy Spirit our Defender and Protector we gather around these stones inviting you to redeem our lives. Forgive us when we have been seduced by the comforts of the material world. When we have neglected to feed our souls. When we have been deceived by our own avarice. |
| | People | <i>Help us Guard the Good and discover the Truth</i> |
| | Leader | Son of the Father, our Brother and Redeemer we bow in shame acknowledging the reflection of our selfish heart. We have abused your love and taken your grace for granted. Forgive our self deception. We have tested your patience beyond all earthly grace. |
| | People | <i>Help us Guard the Good and celebrate your creative Spirit.</i> |
| | Leader | God our Protector and Judge. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We have sold our souls and lost our peace. Save us from being deceived again. Power and wealth will vanish. Beauty and fame with fade. But those who put their trust in you will always be in a secure place. |
| | People | <i>Help us Guard the Good and trust in Your promises.</i> |
| MUSIC | Play music from the Messiah | |

| Item | Notes |
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| LEADER | <p>We give you thanks Oh Lord That you came among us shared our sorrow and pain And took upon yourself the sins of the world You came among us and broke the bread and blessed the cup And made a way for us to be forgiven We come now and gladly receive your gift of faith your gift of bread your gift of wine May it become for us Your saving power at work in our lives</p> <p>As you took bread in the upper room Blessed it and broke, saying, This is my body broken for you So we break this bread Symbolising our brokenness And Your forgiveness May we ever live our lives in eternal gratitude</p> <p>And when supper was finished You took the cup and having blessed it said “This is my blood shed for the remission of sins” We drink this cup believing we are forgiven We do it as a remembrance of your one great sacrifice We do it not to receive your grace But out of gratitude for grace received through the gift of faith.</p> <p>Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again</p> <p>Let us share the bread and wine.</p> <p>(Using broken pieces of bread everyone is invited to come forward and dip the bread in the wide wine cup.)</p> |
| PEOPLE | <p>People together repeat:</p> <p>We who carried our stones Are now living stones We who were once broken Are now feeding on the living bread We who were weary in the journey Are now revived by the wine of the Kingdom We who face temptation Have been delivered from evil As we go into the night We will guard the good</p> |

