

Children's Tenebrae Litany

Leader: When we are unkind to one another or hate each other, the world becomes a darker place. (*Extinguish first candle*)

All: Jesus taught us to love each other.

Leader: When we are grabby and want everything for ourselves, the world becomes a darker place. (*Extinguish second candle*)

All: Jesus taught us to share with others.

Leader: When we are afraid, the world seems dark and frightening. (*Extinguish third candle*)

All: Jesus' love is stronger than our fears. He is the light of the world.

Leader: When we are jealous of others, and are angry because they have things we want for ourselves, the world becomes a darker place. (*Extinguish fourth candle*)

All: Jesus taught us to be content with what we have and to look out for the good of others.

Leader: When are we deceitful and don't tell the truth, the world becomes a darker place. (*Extinguish fifth candle*)

All: Jesus said, "Let your 'Yes' be Yes and your 'No' be No." He expects us to be honest.

Leader: Because of people's hatred, greed, selfishness, jealousy, and dishonesty, Jesus died on the cross. (*Extinguish Sixth candle*)

All: To Jesus' friends the world seemed like a very dark place.

At this point each child brings up an envelope containing their confession of sin. These could be prepared in advance. These "sins" are nailed to the cross while singing.

Hymn: "Were you There?"

Leader: (*Lights the centre candle*). Jesus did not stay dead.
His love is stronger than our sins.
On Easter he was raised from the dead.
Because he loved people enough to suffer and die and still forgive, we too can be forgiven.
His death frees us from the bad things we have done.
We can receive strength from him to forgive others when they hurt us.
The large centre light is the Christ candle. His love can be reflected in us.

Leader: When we are kind to each other and love each other, the world becomes a brighter place. (*First candle is relit*)

All: *Jesus' love shines through our loving deeds and words.*

Leader: When we share and find joy in giving to others who are in need, the world becomes a brighter place. *(Second candle is relit)*

All: *Jesus' love shines through our thoughtfulness and willingness to share.*

Leader: When we trust in God's care for us and are freed from our fears, the world becomes a brighter place. *(Third candle is relit)*

All: *Jesus wants us to trust Him with our fears and worries so we can live freely.*

Leader: When we are content with what we have, and can be happy for others when they get special things, then the world becomes a brighter place. *(Fourth candle is relit)*

All: *Jesus wants us to trust him to supply us with what we need.*

Leader: When we are honest with ourselves and others, the world becomes a safer and brighter place. *(Fifth candle is relit)*

All: *Jesus said "I am the Truth." He wants us to be truthful too.*

Leader: When we are loving, unselfish, trusting, content and honest, then Jesus lives in our lives. The world becomes a brighter place. *(Light final candle)*

All: *Because Jesus lives and wants to live in our hearts,
God's light and love shine through us and brighten up the world.
We thank God for the wonderful gifts of forgiveness and love
which we can enjoy and share because Jesus died for us.*

Elsie Rempel (Canada), 2021. Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary School
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