



FORGIVENESS

Spring 2 2023

Welcome

- We have gathered in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to worship together and think about our value **forgiveness.**

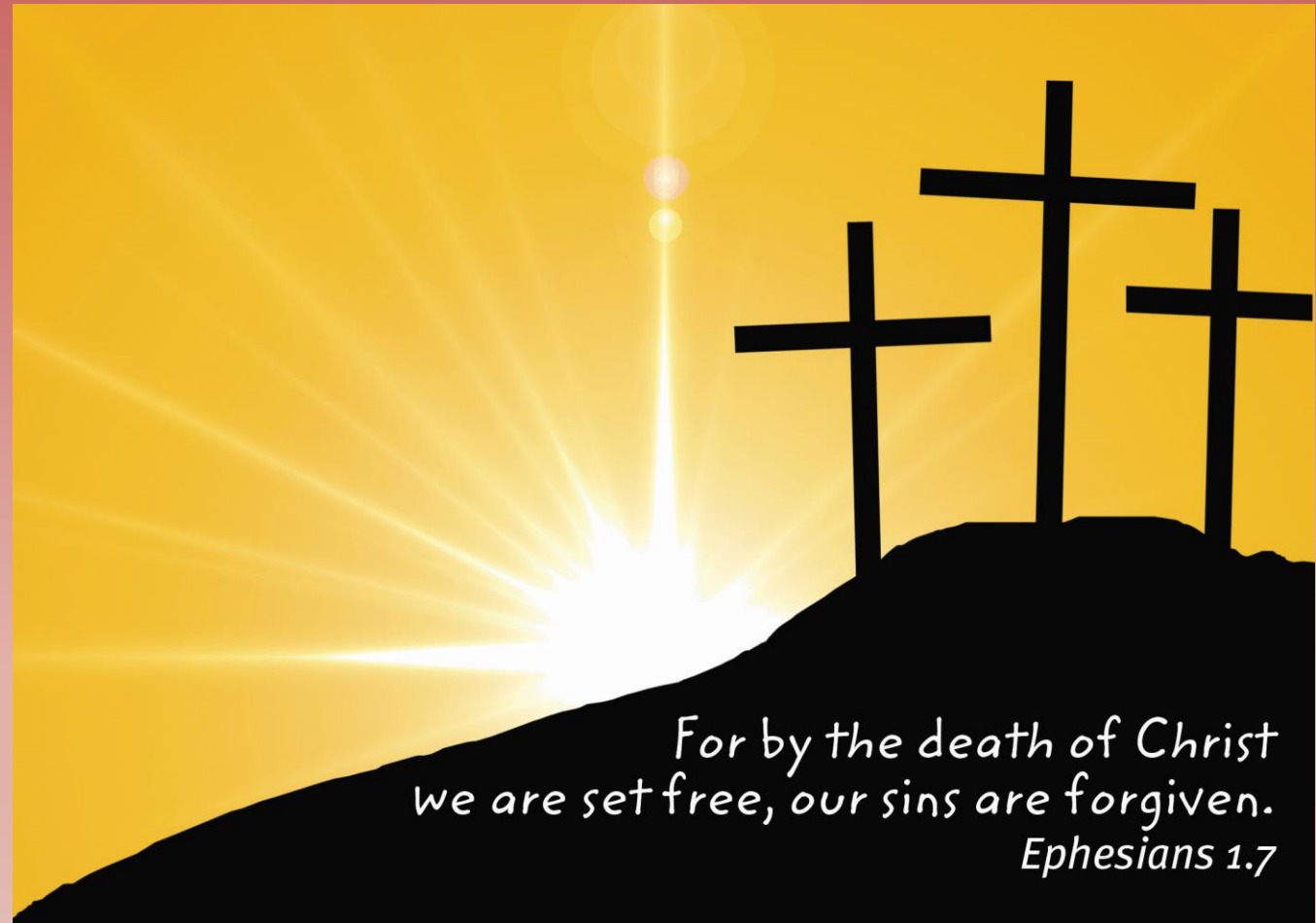
We light our three candles.



Holy Week

- The week before Easter Day is called Holy Week. For Christians, these can feel like dark days as we remember the events in Jesus' life before he was put to death on the cross. The Bible tells us that He died on the cross for us.

The cross is a sacred symbol for Christians. All over the world believers have created special designs which reflect their own lives and experiences.



*For by the death of Christ
we are set free, our sins are forgiven.
Ephesians 1.7*

Learning:

Today we are going to be learning about one cross design and why it is special for the people who first created it.



Learning



The Bangladeshi Cross is made from bamboo leaves and decorated with stitching.

The idea came from a member of a church in Sudan called Mrs Baroi. She wanted to find a way to help the women in her church earn some money so their families could buy plots of land to grow food and open a small shop to sell their produce.

The women used leaves from the bamboo trees which grow everywhere in the region and then decorated them by stitching on simple designs like stars.

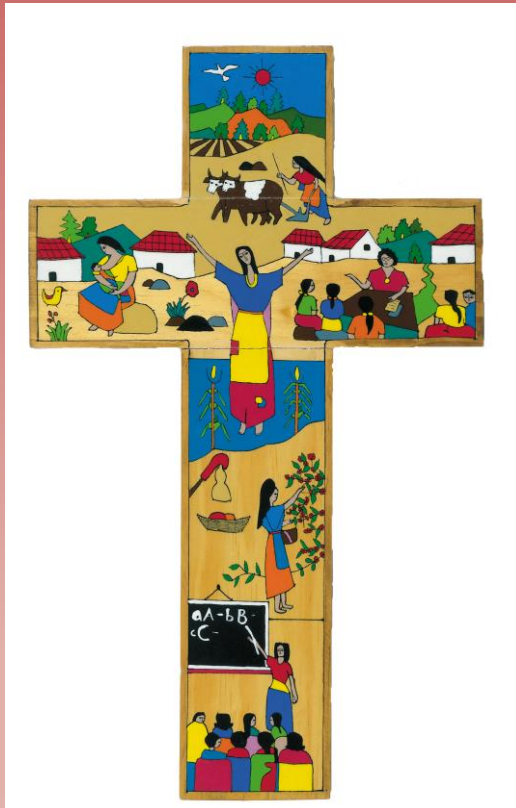
Learning



The Salvadorean Cross

Crosses from El Salvador are brightly coloured with pictures often showing the life of Jesus. The original cross was designed in memory of Maria Gomez.

Maria Christina Gomez was a primary school teacher in El Salvador and was an active member of her church. She angered the authorities in her country because she campaigned for the rights of poor people. One day she was kidnapped and taken away in a van. Later that day, her body was found. Some time later Maria's friends, who did not want to forget her, asked a local artist to paint a wooden cross showing her life and her work with the poor women in the villages of El Salvador.



Learning



Irish Cross

St Brigit of Kildare was born in the 5th Century and is one of Ireland's patron saints, along with St Patrick.

After many adventures in her early life, Bridget became a nun, founded a Christian abbey near Kildare in Ireland and became its leader. The monks and nuns spent their time helping anyone who came to their doors needing food or medical help.

Bridget also began a school of art, where crafts such as painting, metal work and creating illuminated manuscripts were practised. Later she became a patron saints of poets, craftsmen, and women, and healers.

According to legend, Bridget used to weave crosses, which were then tied with ribbons. She gave the crosses to people she met on her journeys.

Learning



Celtic Cross

1,400 years ago St Columba and his followers took the story of Jesus from the tiny island of Iona in Northumberland to many places across the British Isles. They were monks and lived very simply and with great respect for creation.

From these beginnings came the Celtic Christian tradition, symbolised in the Celtic cross that has one unbroken line which forms a continuous path to the sacred point in the centre enfolding heaven and earth.

A circle representing the earth links the arms and upright of the cross.

Celtic spirituality teaches that God is part of the creation he made - plant and animal life as well as human life.

Reflecting



Look at all the crosses.

Which design do you think best illustrates the message of Easter?

Easter Prayer



- God of wonder, God of new life,
- On Good Friday we remember how the friends of Jesus cried tears at the foot of the cross.
- They were sad and quiet as he was laid in the tomb.
- On Easter day we will remember how their sadness turned to joy when Jesus rose from the dead and returned.
- He brought the promise of new life and **forgiveness** for us all.
- Help us to remember every day the gift your son Jesus to the world and always be thankful.
- Amen

