

Bestwood Emmanuel Chancel

Aim: To introduce the Song of Creation (the Benedicite), its origin and representation in the church.

Objective: Pupils will hear the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace and the song they sang to God at that time. They will explore how Christians use this prayer.

Curriculum links:

KS1 Story

KS2 Beliefs and questions

Activity: The children will look at the roundels in the chancel, hear the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and make their own roundels.

Resources: Sheets for older children
Children's Bible with the story of the men in the fiery furnace

Information for Leader

This session is based on the Chancel and particularly the roundels painted on the roof. These illustrate part of the Song of Creation of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (or Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) while in the fiery furnace – this is found in the Apocrypha and is used as a canticle in Morning Prayer sometimes called the Benedicite (pronounced ben-i-dis-i-tê) but also known as The Song of Creation. The eight painted roundels illustrate:

- The Angels of the Lord
- The Heavens, the Sun, the Moon and the Stars of Heaven
- The Lightnings and Clouds
- The Green Things upon the Earth
- The Whales, and all that move in the Waters
- Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)
- The holy and humble Men of heart
- The Priests of the Lord

Introduction (5-10 mins)

- Settle the children so they can see the Chancel and particularly the ceiling.
- With younger children explain that nearly 150 years ago someone painted some pictures in the church of a special song from the Bible. Check that they can recognise each one as you mention them:
 - Angels
 - Sun, moon and stars
 - Lightning and clouds
 - Green things
 - Whales and creatures in the sea
 - Three men in a fiery furnace
 - Holy men
 - Priests
- Point out the words, 'O all ye works of the lord, bless ye the Lord. Praise him and magnify Him for ever' at the lower edge of the roof. This is part of the special song as well.
- With older children, give them a copy of the Song of Creation and ask them see if they can find and highlight the eight lines of the prayer represented on the roof.



heritage learning welcome



Activity (30 mins)

- Tell the children that the song was sung by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when they were in a tough place. Explain that you are going to read the story and ask the children to think as they listen about what it might be like for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Read the story and stop when you get to the three men in the fiery furnace. What might they be thinking at this point? What might they be saying to God? Explain that they were singing the Song of Creation – this was the first time it was sung. Read all, or part of the Song of Creation out. Then continue with the story.
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were praising God as they stood in the furnace, and God was keeping them safe. They were remembering what God had created and that reminded them of God's great power. Ask the children to either create their own roundel picturing what they would like to include as showing God's power, or to create an roundel for one of the lines not illustrated in church. They can either draw these, or cut pictures from magazines. and stick them on a round background to create one.

Plenary (10 mins)

- Look at the roundels the children have produced and the variety of creation they represent. Each child could show their work and say what it represents. As appropriate the rest of the class could respond with 'Bless the Lord' or 'Thank you'.
- Or play a choral version of the Song of Creation as the children look at their pictures and those in church. Allow the music to add to the art work. (If you do not have a choral version, use your search engine and search for Benedicite to find one)

Extension

- Read other stories about Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
- Children can compose their own musical version of the Song of Creation, picking out lines that they particularly like or think are important.

The Song of Creation

- O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Heavens, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Waters that be above the Firmament, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O all ye Powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Sun and Moon, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Stars of Heaven, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Showers and Dew, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Winds of God, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Fire and Heat, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Winter and Summer, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Dews and Frosts, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Frost and Cold, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Ice and Snow, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Nights and Days, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Light and Darkness, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Lightnings and Clouds, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O let the Earth bless the Lord : yea, let it praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Mountains and Hills, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O all ye Green Things upon the Earth, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Wells, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Seas and Floods, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Whales, and all that move in the Waters, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O all ye Fowls of the Air, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O all ye Beasts and Cattle, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Children of Men, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O let Israel bless the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye Spirits and Souls of the Righteous, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O ye holy and humble Men of heart, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.
- O Ananias, Azarias and Misael, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.