**SONG** - MY LIGHTHOUSE - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=026D732N\_tk

**MAKE A BUCKET LIST** - What are the top 5 things you really want to do? Maybe travel somewhere special? Maybe meet a particular person? Maybe try a new activity or eat a unique meal? Spend a few minutes making a list of the top things you want to do before you kick the bucket!

**SYMBOLS GAME** - Use the attached picture sheet - what do all these symbols represent? What do they all have in common?

In true Family Church style - the answer is Jesus! But some of them might be a but surprising as they are more unusual Jesus symbols!

Egg – used specifically at Easter time to signify new life. A seemingly lifeless object but with the promise of new life

The cross – an empty cross symbolising Jesus’ sacrifice but also that He didn’t stay dead but came alive again

The dolphin was an early symbol used by Christians. Because dolphins swim alongside boats, they can represent Jesus who guides believers to heaven but dolphins were also sometimes used to illustrate the story of Jonah (Jonah was buried inside the big fish for 3 days) and that association makes the dolphin a symbol of the resurrection.

The empty tomb – although Jesus’ body was placed in the tomb after He had died on the cross, He didn’t stay dead in the tomb.

A chrysalis – a chrysalis looks completely dead but from it emerges a butterfly.

The phoenix is a mythical bird of crimson and gold colour that would build a flammable nest and be consumed by the flames, from which it would arise from its own ashes. Clement of Rome was the first Christian to connect the phoenix with that of Christ's resurrection.

This morning we are looking at the theme of all the symbols - they all help us to understand something about Jesus - how he died and rose again. Now Jesus dying and returning was not an accident or a lucky coincidence. It’s always been God’s plan, because Jesus is not just a normal person like us, Jesus is also God himself and because he loves us so much he was willing to die for us!

Here’s a video that tells us about how Jesus is part of God’s plan.

**VIDEO:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u-ICIHAmKk

How amazing is that?! Since the beginning of the universe God has loved everything he created, from a tiny ant to a big tree to a enormous star a billion miles away! He loves what he makes, and God made you. God loves you. And God came to earth as a man called Jesus to show us how to live and to show us how much he loves us. Jesus died and rose again to show us how much God loves us. It’s a lot.

**CRAFT:** Somestimes when we think about love it;’s all about shiny rainbows and sparkly pink hearts. But love is not really a cute, soppy thing - love is the most powerful force in the universe! Love is God’s motivation, love is what brings us happiness and comfort and joy and hope and so much more.

So we’re going to pray for more love, more of God’s love in our lives and more opportunities for us to share love with other people. We could draw a heart to symbolise it, but I want to challenge you to be more creative. What’s the craziest, wildest, most imaginative thing you can draw to represent love?

*Spend 5 minutes thinking and drawing an incredible symbol of love! Show them to one another.*

**PRAYER:** Love is powerful like a cannon and it is warm like freshly baked bread and it is like all the other ideas everyone had! I’m going to read a bit from the bible which tells us all about love, what it’s like and what it can do. Listen as a prayer, add to your picture as you imagine the greatness of God’s love for you.

1 Corinthians 13:

I may speak in different languages of men or even angels. But if I do not have love, then I am only a noisy bell or a ringing cymbal. 2 I may have the gift of prophecy; I may understand all the secret things of God and all knowledge; and I may have faith so great that I can move mountains. But even with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing. 3 I may give everything I have to feed the poor. And I may even give my body as an offering to be burned.[a] But I gain nothing by doing these things if I do not have love.

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. 5 Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not become angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. 6 Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices over the truth. 7 Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always continues strong.

8 Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will end. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will be ended. 9 These things will end, because this knowledge and these prophecies we have are not complete. 10 But when perfection comes, the things that are not complete will end. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child; I made plans like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. 12 It is the same with us. Now we see as if we are looking into a dark mirror. But at that time, in the future, we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part. But at that time I will know fully, as God has known me. 13 So these three things continue forever: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love.

Finally, we have one last song - an amazing song about the great day when the power of God;s love defeated sin and death and Jesus walked out the grave, to bring God’s love to all!

SONG - GLORIOUS DAY - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBXZuEWleic