

ASSEMBLY 1

The leader may begin:

The new year, like a new born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind.

Listen to a Reading from the Book of Genesis:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was a vast waste,
darkness covered the deep,
and the spirit of God
hovered over the surface of the water.
God said: "Let there be light,"
and there was light;
and God saw the light was good,
and he separated the light from darkness.
He called the light day,
and the darkness night.
So evening came, and morning came;
it was the first day.
Genesis 1:1-5

Then all pray:

Bless us, O Lord, and bless the time and seasons
yet to come.
Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
And fill this new year with your kindness,
that we may be glad and rejoice
all the days of our life. **Amen**

ASSEMBLY 2

As the class gathers around the manger, the leader may begin:

On this day we remember the Magi who, guided by the star shining in the heavens, came to the house where Jesus rested in the arms of Mary his mother. They were blessed as they brought their gifts to that holy place. Today we ask Christ our Lord to bless our school and make it his dwelling.

Listen to the Holy Gospel according to John:

In the beginning the Word already was.

The Word was in God's presence,
and what God was, the Word was.

He was with God in the beginning,
with him no created thing came into being.
So the Word became flesh;
he made his home among us,
and we saw his glory,
such glory as befits the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.
John 1:1-3,14

Intercessions by class members for various needs have been prepared and are made.

Then all say the following prayer:

O God,
by your heavenly star,
you guided those who were wise
to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.
May your blessing come to rest on our school and all of us.
Make our lives wise with your wisdom,
true to your teaching,
and enlivened by your love.
May your Word made flesh
make his home among us. Amen.

ASSEMBLY 3 - IONA STYLE

An act of worship from the Iona Community which is suitable for Epiphany and for other times.

The Iona Community in Scotland has, for many years, developed simple forms of prayer for use in small groups. What follows is a simple act of worship that could be used regularly in a class or tutor group.

Three candles or nightlights are needed, and these should be placed on a table where everyone can easily see them, perhaps with some flowers, a cross, or a natural object.

1st leader:

I will light a light
In the name of the Maker
Who lit the world
And breathed the breath of life for me.
A candle is lit and placed centrally.

2nd leader will light a light:

In the name of the Son
Who saved the world
And stretched out his hand for me.
A candle is lit and placed centrally.

3rd leader will light a light:

In the name of the Spirit
Who encircles the world
And blesses my soul with longing.
A candle is lit and placed centrally.

All

We will light three lights
For the Trinity of love
God above us
God beside us
God beneath us
The beginning
The end
The everlasting one.

A moment of silence is kept.