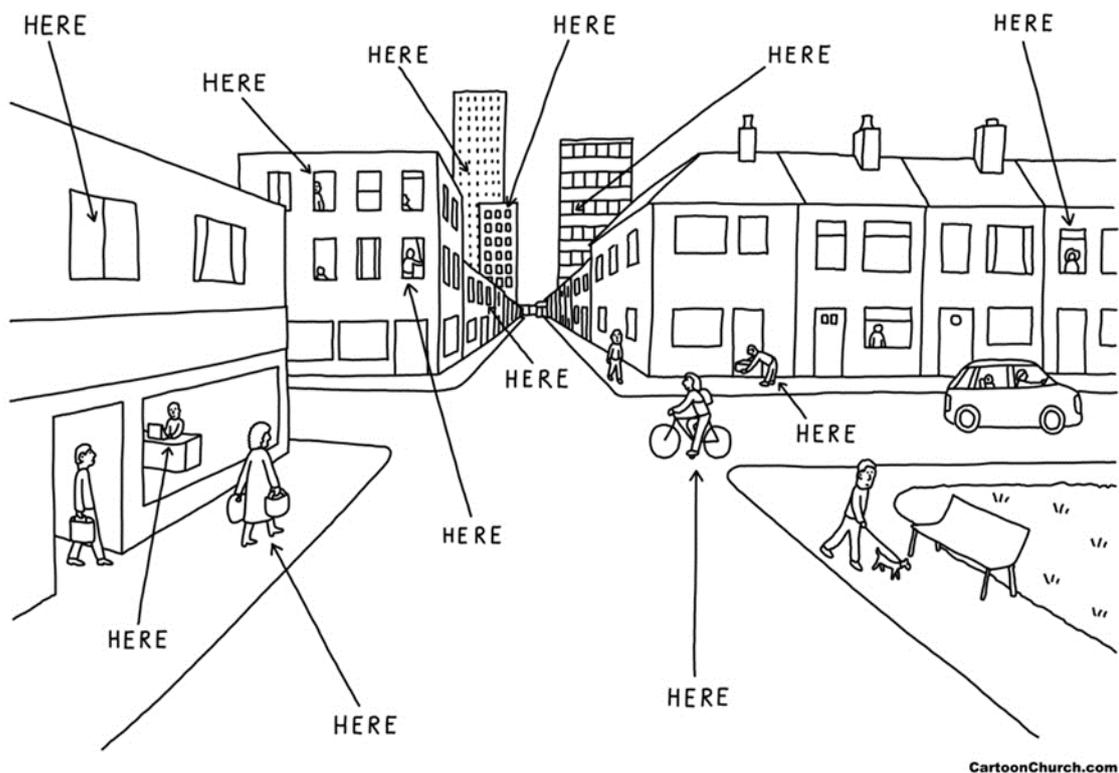




Hello and welcome to our church, which looks like this:

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



I'm afraid the bacon butties and the croissants and coffee are now virtual.

Jean and the Breakfast Angels – we miss you.

Nick, we miss your brilliant playing.

Joy, we miss you too. Lots.

Thanks to Dave Walker at CartoonChurch.com for the picture above.

You could print it for colouring-in if that's appropriate.

So here we are, meeting in cyberspace. Let's be thankful for that.

*Loving God, you are always with us
and in these troubling times we thank you for your presence.*

*We ask you now to help us live a life full of the power of your presence and to sustain our
faith through all the strangeness and difficulty we may face.*

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

So how did this happen then? How did playing hide and seek with this virus take over our lives? Let me tell you a story... (best aloud)

First there was God and there was so much of him and s/he was so *alive* that he couldn't contain himself. He had to just explode.

BANG! he went, and set life free. And it was wonderful. It roared through the universe like a rushing wave of joy and hope.

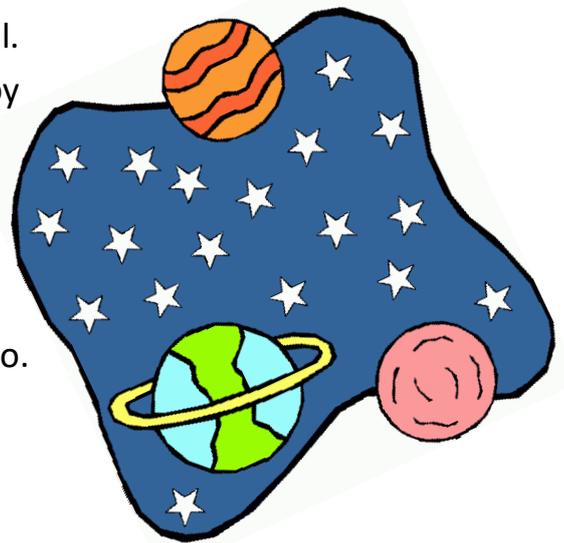
It *burgeoned*. It *flourished*. It *blossomed*.

It grew and it **grew and it GREW**. And God loved it.

Saying 'yes' to life is what God's all about, so when it went in all directions he delighted in that too.

God makes everything - and he loves what he makes.

If you want to see the imagination of God at work just look around. Everything. Absolutely everything that lives is the work of God's 'Yes' to life.



And I know what you're thinking... *even that virus?* Yes. Even that. Have you seen the pictures of it? It's beautiful. *But, but...*you're saying. And I know, I know....



Please wash your hands after looking at this picture....

So, a long time ago, I had this conversation with God. Not about this virus, about something else that was hard to live with. Why? I asked. *Why?* And then I listened. For a long time. To a lot of silence. *Then....*

.....this came:

We live in the imagination of God
and the imagination of God is a wild and dangerous place to be.



But we're not alone in it.

We are together and God is with us too.

And to make sure we understood how much he is with us
he joined us face to face and walked the hills of Galilee.

To show us how to treat each other he touched the untouchable
and loved the lost, the lonely and the reprehensible.



To make things absolutely clear, he put himself in harm's way
and let us do our worst. He died for us. He lives for us.

Now we have to get through this the way he would have.

So do what you can, in the knowledge of that love. x

Prayers

Take a moment. Be still. Listen to the sounds of life happening all around you. God's love is in all of that. Be thankful. Share what's going on inside you with God.

Loving God, we wait for you.

Come now, fill our hearts and minds with your loving purpose.

We pray for our world and for our place in it.

We ask you to make us whole because we are like broken pieces in need of you to complete us. We think of the crisis we are facing and of those who work to avert it.

We give thanks for all who work to help others.

Loving Lord, give us grace to truly love our neighbour.

Loving God, we wait for you.

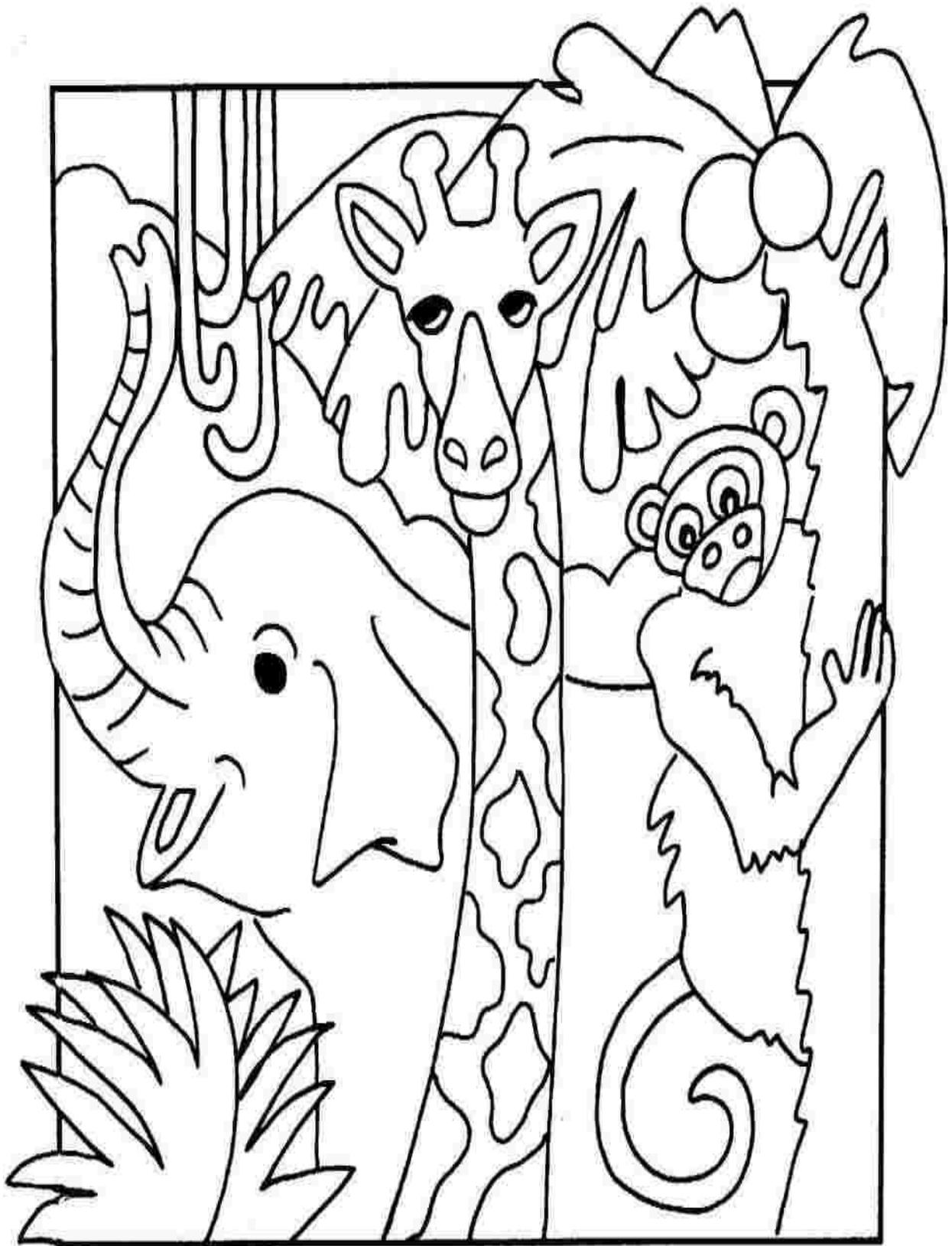
Come now, fill our hearts and minds with your loving purpose, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now say the Lord's Prayer, knowing that somewhere someone else is saying it too.

THE PEACE

<https://youtu.be/YajnsShr1IA>

Make this and hang it in your window?



Some creatures from the wild imagination of God.

Print off and colour in.