

Makaton Murmuration Prayer

As we finish we consider the murmuration again.

These clouds are made up of hundreds of thousands of individual starlings and amazingly there's no single bird in charge of the flight plan.

So how do they fly without bumping in to each other?

Each individual starling is keenly aware of what their seven closest neighbours are up to; behind, around and in front of them. As the flock moves those seven neighbours might change but the principle stays the same. The starling is supported by the community of birds immediately around them.

And every starling in the murmuration follows 3 simple rules:

- Move in the same direction as their community
- Remain close to their community
- Avoid collisions with their community

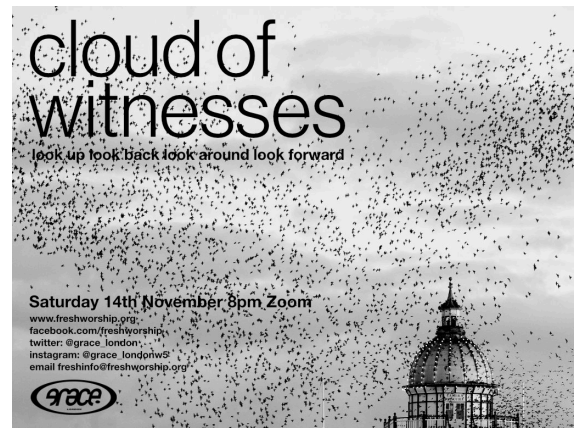
Those simple principles create one of the most incredible spectacles in the natural world and offer us a great life lesson.

Let's use the image of the murmuration to frame our final prayer remembering those saints who have gone before us, stood with us and will follow us. And just as the murmuration is defined by activity we are going to use the makaton actions for yesterday, today and tomorrow to help us focus as we pray.

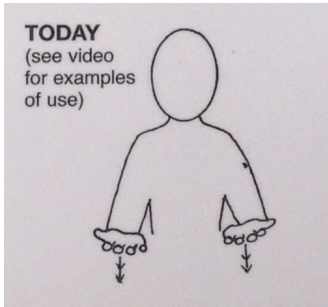
Yesterday



Father we look behind and give thanks for those who have been instrumental in our lives and our faith journey. For those who have made sacrifices to secure the beliefs we value. For those who have gone before us and been an example of a life lived well. For parents, guardians, family, friends, mentors and teachers. For Your saints, known, unknown, or known only to us who have born witness to your message. For those who introduced us to Your Son and helped start us on our journey of faith.

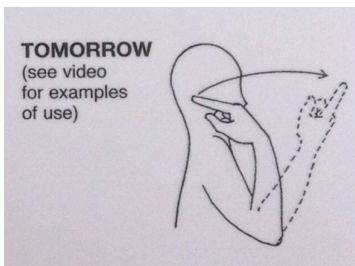


Today



Father we look around and give thanks for those who support our faith. For those in our community who live life beside us, break bread with us, worship alongside us, disciple us, remember us in prayer, and instruct or guide us. We also lift up to You those around us who are in need of support at this time. Those who are suffering because of the current circumstances. Those who have lost someone to this virus, or feel isolated, alone or vulnerable. Those already suffering because of illness, neglect or abuse and have had their suffering compounded because of lockdown. Draw alongside them and be everything they need.

Tomorrow



Father we look forward and consider our own relationship with Your Son. Reveal to us how we can grow to be more like Him in our relationships with others. We ask you to direct our lives, show us where You want us to go, make plain what saddens You and reveal to us new opportunities to serve. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to love as you do. Help us not to forget our role as Your stewards and the need to invest in Your future world and Your future body.

Finally, just as we would if we saw a murmuration of starlings, we look up and consider Your coming Kingdom. We thank you that we enjoy the same hope that the great cloud of witnesses behind, around and before us have and pray with confidence; Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in Heaven.

Amen