Day 5 Craft / Service component

Peace Doves

Craft Connection:
Building peace starts with building relationships with our neighbors. In worship, the sharing of the peace is an important time to remind each other of the forgiveness and love that marks our relationships with one another. The doves in this craft can be sent to neighbors and friends as reminders that they are loved.

Materials needed:

- Printed doves, two or three per child
- Markers or crayons
- Pens or pencils
- Optional: stamps and envelopes

Directions:
Hand out the printed doves and coloring materials. For children able to write, pass out pens and pencils. Provide enough supplies so that each child can make at least two doves.

1) Use the script below (or similar words) to start a conversation about peace.

   Can you think of a time when we talk about peace during church services? [The passing of the peace.] The passing of the peace in church is based on a verse from the Bible. Jesus tells his followers that before they make an offering to God, they should make peace with their neighbors. For Jesus, being at peace with God means being at peace with our neighbors. If we aren't getting along with each other, God wants us to work together to make sure we are at peace right away. The passing of the peace is more than just saying "hello" to people in church; it's reminding others (and us!) that they are loved and they are important to us. Passing the peace is a way of saying, "You are welcome here, and you are important to me."

2) After having a conversation about peace, invite the children to color the doves. When you are done, consider displaying the doves in a window of your home or have older children write messages on the back of the doves to send to friends, family, congregation members or other people in your community. The notes on the doves can be a welcome reminder of God's love to people isolated in nursing homes, at home or elsewhere, and for people who have been working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.