

*In our reading today, the mustard tree provides a home for the birds of the air. It provides a place of safety, shelter and connection, and its branches offer space for others to live.*

- Find somewhere, inside or outside, where you can see a tree. Look and see what sort of life it supports – its own leaves and fruit, and any birds or animals that have made their home in it.
- Watch from a distance to see if any birds or animals are coming and going.
- Get closer to see if you can see any insects, fungi or other forms of life being supported by the tree.

*I wonder who you're connected to and how?*

- On a piece of paper, draw yourself or write your name in the middle, and then make a mind map of all the connections you have to other people or groups of people.
- These are some of your 'branches'. As you look at what you have drawn/written, thank God for these people and your connection to them.
- Where among these 'branches' have you noticed something that reminds you of God's kingdom of peace and justice?

*Today's reading talks about branches growing from a tiny seed.*

- If you have some seeds at home, plant some. If you don't have some seeds, and are able to get out for a walk, look out for seeds you could collect to plant.
- What do you notice about your seeds now? Their size, shape, colour, texture... Make a note or draw a picture. Go back to your seeds after a few weeks, and see how they have changed – compare what you can see with the notes you made before. You might want to keep a record – using drawing, writing or photography – of how they change and grow over the next weeks and months.