

**Lesson 23: FLOWERS IN HEAVEN**  
*Heaven and Hell 276, Arcana Coelestia 4528, Arcana Coelestia 4529*

**INTRODUCTION:**

*Today we will do a project about flowers in heaven, trying to imagine what they might be like. Here are three descriptions that Swedenborg wrote down about flowers in heaven:*

**READING:**

To intelligent angels there appear gardens and parks full of every kind of tree and flower. The trees are set in a very beautiful design, twining into arched entrances, with walkways here and there. Everything is so beautiful that there is no way to describe it.

Intelligent angels stroll there. They gather flowers, make wreaths, and adorn little children with them. There are kinds of trees and flowers there unknown in the world – in fact, kinds that cannot exist in our world. *Heaven and Hell, 176*

There are paradisaal regions in heaven where gardens are vividly presented to view, with trees and flowers of so many kinds and species that those on the whole earth are comparatively few. And within every flower there is a kind of wisdom and intelligence that shines forth from it, so that the angels visiting the garden are in a paradise of flowers, which gladdens their eyes, and a paradise of wisdom, which gladdens their minds. *Arcana Coelestia, 4528*

A certain man who had been a very respected botanist (or flower expert) while in the world, came into the spiritual world after dying. There he was surprised to learn that there were flowers and trees in heaven, because he hadn't known much about heaven before.

This man was then carried up into the paradisaal gardens of heaven, and he was amazed and delighted. He wandered through the flowers, gathering many up to examine them closely. The man told Swedenborg that he saw an immense abundance of flowers that had never been seen on earth, and that would be hard for anyone there to imagine. He said also that these heavenly flowers glow with an amazing brightness, which comes from the glow of heaven.

*Arcana Coelestia, 4529*

**DISCUSSION:**

On earth, we can't fully picture the beauty of the flowers in heaven, because that is something we can only see someday when we can look with our spiritual eyes. But it can be fun to imagine some of the different kinds of flowers that might appear there. Let's make some tissue flowers, using color combinations that are different than what we might find in our own gardens. If you want to make one that hangs in a window, it will seem to have a glow, like the real flowers in heaven have.

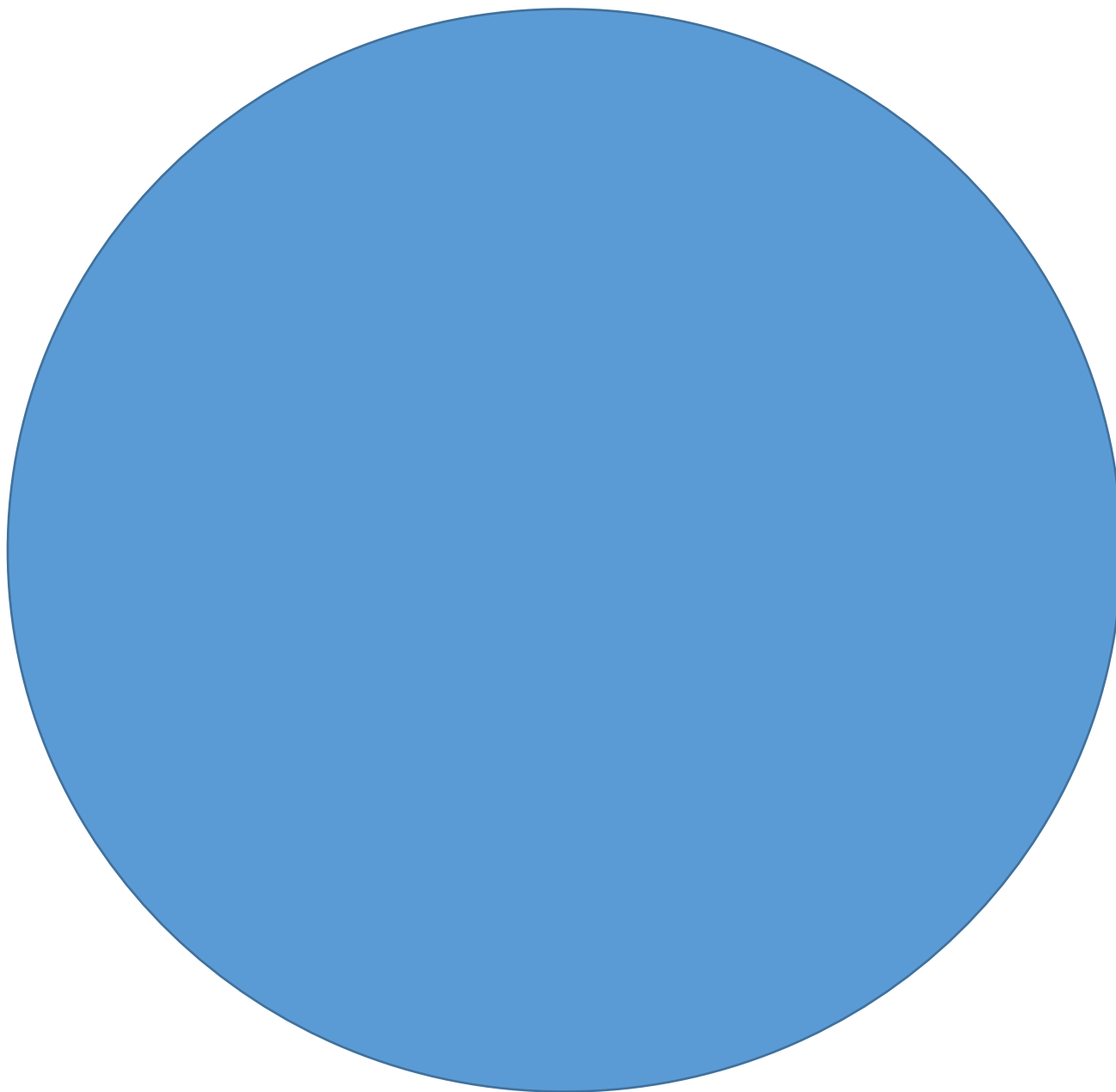
## **Project Quotes**

*If the children choose to glue their flowers onto a poster board instead of gluing them into circular frames to hang, they can write the following sentence on the poster using colored marker.*

In heaven, there are beautiful flowers  
that have never been seen on earth,  
and they glow from an inner light.

**Project Pattern**

*(See project directions on next page.)*



**PROJECT: PAPER FLOWERS**

**Supplies for each student:**

circle pattern (see page 3) printed on regular paper  
flower template(s) printed on regular paper  
piece of stiff paper or lightweight cardboard  
4 pieces of colored paper in varying shades e.g. red, orange, dark yellow, light yellow  
(*optional*: create a flower to hang in a window using tissue paper)  
1 piece white paper  
glue  
pencil  
scissors

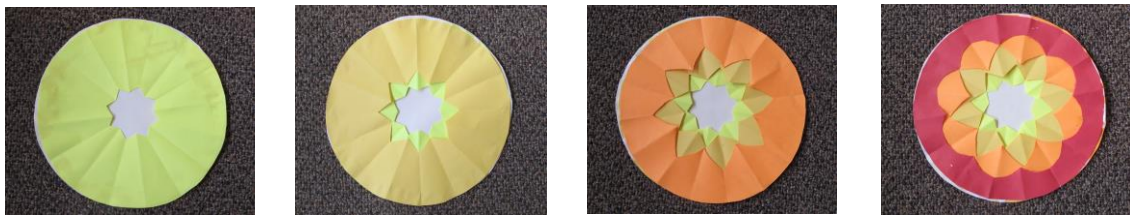
**Directions:**

1. Cut out circle pattern (p. 3).
2. Place the circle pattern over the stiff paper or lightweight cardboard. Cut around the circle.
3. Gently bend the stiff paper circle in half. Cut a second circle inside the first circle creating a ring as shown.
4. Select four different colors of paper or tissue paper. Each layer should contrast with the layers on either side of it so that all layers will add to the overall design.
5. Place the circle pattern over each piece of colored paper and the white paper. Cut around the circle pattern. You should now have 5 circles.
6. Fold each colored circle in half 4 times. Each wedge piece will be  $\frac{1}{16}$  of a circle. *Note*: the white circle should NOT be folded.
7. Lay the folded circles next to each other to make  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a circle as shown. Put contrasting colors next to each other.
8. Choose a flower template from p.6. Cut around the template and then cut along the dashed line. This is the line you will draw and cut along in step 9.
9. Place the template over the folded circles. Carefully draw the cutting line on the quarters.  
Cut each folded circle as marked.
10. Unfold the circles and smooth out the fold lines.



***Lesson 23 – Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School, page 5***

11. Start project assembly by placing the white circle on the table. This is the foundation for the flower design.
12. Spread a thin layer of glue around the edge of the white circle. Place the paper circle with the smallest hole cut out of it on top of the white paper and smooth down.
13. Continue to glue and place each layer as shown below, being careful to line up the cut-out designs. Choose whether you want the points to line up with the layer below, or be offset. Experiment to see what looks good to you.



14. Glue the ring cut from stiff paper on top of the design to hide the cut edges. Trim any edges that stick out.
15. Tape a piece of string to the back of the project to hang.
16. *Optional:* Gather the pieces that were cut from the various layers to create the flower design. Arrange them to create another heavenly flower!



**Flower Templates**

