

## Confirmation Class: Winter 2014 Schedule

**Key Date: June 22, 2014 Bishop Brewer's Visitation and Confirmation Service**

### Session 1 – Introduction

- Introductions
- Vision-The Church on the Hill
- Core Values: Experiencing and Sharing the Joy and Love of Jesus Christ
- Mission: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry & Mission

#### Covenants/Baptismal Covenant

- 6 Biblical Covenants
- Membership Covenants: Baptismal and St. Peter's

### Session 2 – Worship Corporate

- Book of Common Prayer
- Sunday Worship
- Order of the Service
- Communion: Breaking Bread Together
- Church Calendar and Lectionary
- Music: Traditional and Contemporary

### Session 3 – Worship Individual

- Living as a Romans 12 Christian
- Daily Worship
  - Morning and Evening
  - The Daily Office
- Liturgy for Life

### Session 4 – Fellowship I: Unity and Reconciliation

- Unity in the Body & Biblical Peacemaking

#### Fellowship II: Pastoral Care and Mutual Support

- Pastoral Care
- Doing Life Together
- Welcoming New Members

### Session 5 – Discipleship I: The Christian Faith: What do we believe?

- Holy Scriptures
- The Apostles and Nicene Creeds
- The 39 Articles
- The Catechism

Session 6 - Discipleship II: The Christian Life: How do we live?

- Repentance
- Study
- Spiritual Disciplines & the Sacramental Life
- Fruits of the Spirit

Session 7 – Ministry I: Calling and Discernment

- Calling, Vocation and Discernment of SHAPE for Ministry
- Spiritual Gifts

Ministry II: Stewardship – Time, Talent and Treasure

- The Biblical Call to Tithing
- Making the Most of the Days: Priorities
- Stewardship of the Body

Session 8 – Mission

- Sharing the Gospel in Word and Deed
- Mission to the Poor
- The Anglican Global Mission – 5 Marks of Mission

What is Next?

- Making the Commitment
- Confirmation, Reception & Renewal of Vows

**Resource List:**

*The Bible*

*The Book of Common Prayer*

*Our Anglican Heritage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

by John W. Howe and Sam  
Pascoe

*Teaching Blog: [revcharlieholt.com](http://revcharlieholt.com)*

## Session 1 – Introduction

- Introductions
- Vision-The Church on the Hill
- Core Values: Experiencing and Sharing the Joy and Love of Jesus Christ
- Mission: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry & Mission

### Vision-The Church on the Hill: Captivating the Heart of the World with the Glory of God

- St. Peter's Episcopal Church
- The Diocese of Central Florida
- The Episcopal Church
- The Anglican Communion

### The Core Values and Mission of St. Peter's

- Experiencing and Sharing the Joy and Love of Jesus Christ
- Worship
- Discipleship
- Fellowship
- Ministry
- Mission

Going Deeper:

Ephesians 1  
Our Anglican Heritage, Chapters 1-2  
Book of Common Prayer p. 845-851

## Vision Statement

The Church on the Hill: Captivating the Heart of the World with the Glory of God

### Key Verses:

**It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the Lord  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,  
and many peoples shall come, and say:**

*“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”*

**For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**  
–Isaiah 2:2-4 (ESV)

**“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.**

**“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**  
–Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

## The Mission and Core Values of St. Peter's

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is called by God to experience and share the joy and love of Jesus Christ through Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Mission.

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

#### **New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

From this passage we derive our Core values:

...to experience and share the joy and love of Jesus Christ...

### **The Great Commandment**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

### **The Great Commission**

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt. 28:16-20)

From these Passages we derive our Five Mission Purpose: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Mission

## Covenants/Baptismal Covenant

- What will be asked of me? Membership Covenant/ Baptismal Covenant
- What is a Covenant?
  - 6 Biblical Covenants
    - Adam
    - Noah
    - Abraham
    - Moses
    - David
    - New Covenant
  - The St. Peter's Membership Covenant
  - The Baptismal Covenant

## What is a Covenant?

Q. What is meant by a covenant with God?

A. A covenant is a relationship initiated by God, to which a body of people responds in faith.

*—An Outline of the Faith, BCP p. 846*

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word for covenant is *be'rit* and in the New Testament it is the Greek word *diatheke*. A covenant is a bonded relationship between two or more parties. God has initiated many covenants with different people throughout biblical history.

### The 6 Biblical Covenants

There is a flow to the covenants found in the Bible. The manifestation of God's covenants occurs in a sequence:

- Adam (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-17)
  - Promised blessings: The Tree of Life & Freedom in Eden
  - Stipulations: Reflect, Reproduce and Reign & Do not eat the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
  - Curses: Toil, Pain and Death
  - Signs: Trees, the Animal Skin Coverings
  - Promise of Restoration (Gen. 3:15)

**“I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”**

—Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

- Noah (Gen. 9:12-16)
  - Promise: Global Stability in spite of the sinful heart of Man (no more global floods)
  - Stipulations: Reproduce and Reign, No Murder
  - Curse: Death Penalty for Murder
  - Sign: Bow in the Clouds, Ark through the Water (Gen. 9:13)

**“When the bow is in the clouds,  
I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant  
between God and every living creature  
of all flesh that is on the earth.”**

—Genesis 9:16 (ESV)

- Abraham (Gen. 12, 17)
  - Seven “I will’s” of God’s Promise to Abraham:
    - I will show you a land.
    - I will make your name great.
    - I will bless you to be a blessing.
    - I will bless those who bless you
    - I will curse those who curse you.
    - I will bless all the nations of the world through you.
    - I will give you this land.
  - Sign: Smoking Firepot through the slain Animals and Circumcision
  - Curse: “Being Cut off”

**“And I will establish my covenant  
between me and you and your offspring  
after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant,  
to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”  
–Genesis 17:7 (ESV)**

- Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai (Deut. 30:15-20)
  - Redemption and Salvation: The Exodus from Egypt
  - Promise: Prosperity as a nation in the land
  - Stipulations: The Law (Torah) specifically Ten Commandments (Ex. 34:28)
  - Curse: Difficulties in the Land and ultimately Exile
  - Signs: Ark of the Covenant, Blood of Sacrifices
  - Promise of Restoration for Repentance

**“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.  
If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today,  
by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways,  
and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules,  
then you shall live and multiply,  
and the Lord your God will bless you in the land  
that you are entering to take possession of it.”  
–Deuteronomy 30:15-16 (ESV)**

- David (Sam. 7:12-16, Psalm 2)
  - Promise: Heir of David on the Throne forever.
  - Curse: Heir will be punished if unfaithful.
  - Stipulations: Build the House of the LORD; Be Faithful to YHWH
  - Sign: Anointing of Oil and Scepter (Psalm 2)

**I will tell of the decree:  
The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.  
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession. –Psalm 2:7-8**

- Believers in Jesus and the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-37, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Acts 2:37-39)
  - Promise: Salvation, Forgiveness of Sins, Freedom from Bondage to Evil; Restoration to Eternal Life, The Gift of the Holy Spirit
  - Curse: Eternal Separation from God, Hell
  - Stipulations: Obedience to the Command of Jesus Christ and his Apostles
  - Sign: The Cross, Baptism, Bread and Wine

**When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart  
and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we  
do?”**

**Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized,  
every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ  
for the forgiveness of your sins.  
And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
The promise is for you and your children  
and for all who are far off  
—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” –Acts 2:37-39**

Going Deeper:

Ephesians 2  
Our Anglican Heritage, Chapters 3-4  
Book of Common Prayer, p. 298-310



## St. Peter's Membership Covenant

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with St. Peter's vision, mission, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the St. Peter's church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. Will you guard the unity and fellowship of your church  
...by acting in love toward other members?  
...by refusing to gossip?  
...by following the leaders?

*I will, with God's help.*

2. Will you share the responsibility of your church  
...by praying for its growth in depth and breadth?  
...by inviting others to attend?  
...by warmly welcoming those who visit?

*I will, with God's help.*

3. Will you serve the ministry of your church  
...by discovering your gifts and talents?  
...by being equipped to serve by your priests?  
...by developing a servant's heart?

*I will, with God's help.*

4. Will you support the testimony of your church  
...by attending faithfully?  
...by living a godly life?  
...by giving regularly?

*I will, with God's help.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Baptismal Covenant

## Individual Commitment

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* I do.

## Corporate Commitment

### *The Christian Faith*

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

*The Christian Life*

- Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
- People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
- People* I will, with God's help.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Session 3 – Worship Corporate

- Book of Common Prayer
- Sunday Worship
- Order of the Service
- Church Calendar and Lectionary
- Music: Traditional and Contemporary

### Key Covenant Question:

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* I will, with God's help

**Acts 2:**<sup>42</sup> *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### Early Christian Practice:

"And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons."

--Justin Martyr's Apology (150 A.D.)

## Sunday Worship

### *Liturgy*

<sup>1</sup> a form or formulary according to which public religious worship, especially Christian worship, is conducted.

<sup>2</sup> a religious service conducted according to a liturgy: *at the conclusion of the liturgy the Bishop presented the certificates*

Origin: mid 16th century: via French or late Latin from Greek *leitourgia* 'public service, worship of the gods', from *leito-* "public" (from *laos* "people")+ *-ergos* "that works," from *ergon* "work".

**Every Church is liturgical, and has a liturgy.**

Key Learning: While some may consider the Episcopal Church uniquely a “liturgical” church, there really is no such thing as a “non-liturgical” church. The difference is in prayer style and formality, music and structure. To sing a few songs, say some extemporaneous prayers, take an offering, preach a sermon and have an altar call is a type of “liturgy”. However, what most people mean when they use the word “liturgical” is that the order follows a more formalized format with written prayers and fixed structure.

### **Where do we find the Episcopal Church’s liturgy?**

The Book of Common Prayer contains the liturgies for usage in the Episcopal Church. We find our principle (or main) liturgy beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

*“The Holy Eucharist, the principle act of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day and other major feasts, and Daily Morning and Evening Prayer, as set forth in this Book, are the regular services appointed for public worship in this Church.” BCP p. 13*

**Extemporaneous prayer** is spontaneous and usually non-formulaic verbal praise, confession, thanksgiving, and/or petition that we offer to God in silence or out loud.

- At what point in the service does the Episcopal liturgy encourage extemporaneous prayer?

## **The Holy Eucharist**

### Order of the Service

- Ministry of the Word
  - Opening Acclamation
  - Collects:
    - Collect for Purity
    - Collect of the Day
  - 4 Scripture Readings
  - Sermon
  - Creed
  - Prayers of the People and Confession of Sin
  - The Peace
- Eucharist: The Great Thanksgiving
  - Offering
  - Making Eucharist
  - Communion: Breaking Bread and Sharing Together

### Going Deeper:

Ephesians 3  
Our Anglican Heritage, Chapters 5-6  
Book of Common Prayer, p. 856-862  
Blog Article on music styles:  
<http://revcharlieholt.com/?p=509>

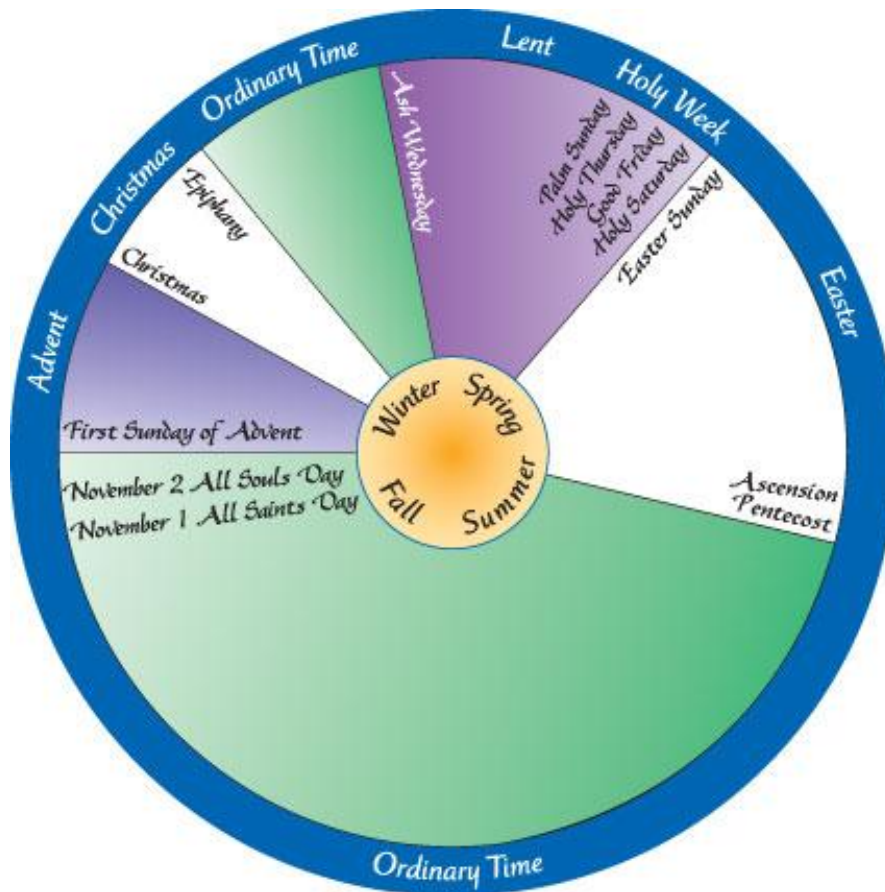
## **Music: Traditional and Contemporary**

1. Discuss the pros and cons of Traditional vs. Contemporary forms of music?
2. Which style do you prefer and why?

See Blog Post: “Oh Lord, how shall we praise thee? Let me count the ways!”  
<http://revcharlieholt.com/?p=509>

## Church Calendar and Lectionary

- The Liturgical Calendar
- Principle Feast Days:
  - Easter Day
  - Ascension Day
  - Trinity Sunday
  - All Saints Day, November 1
  - Christmas Day, December 25
  - The Epiphany, January 6



- The Lectionary-Three Year Scripture Reading Cycle
- BCP p.888-931
- iPad apps “Lectionary” and iBCP



## Session 4 – Worship Individual

### Living as a Romans 12 Christian

#### A Living Sacrifice

Romans 12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.

#### Humble Service in the Body of Christ

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your <sup>[a]</sup> faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, <sup>[b]</sup> do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

#### Love in Action

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. <sup>[c]</sup> Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," <sup>[d]</sup> says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Footnotes:**

- a. [Romans 12:6](#) Or *the*
- b. [Romans 12:8](#) Or *to provide for others*
- c. [Romans 12:16](#) Or *willing to do menial work*
- d. [Romans 12:19](#) Deut. 32:35
- e. [Romans 12:20](#) Prov. 25:21,22

*Key: Worship is more than what we do on Sunday Morning—it is a way of life.*

**Daily Worship**

- Morning Prayer
- Evening Prayer
- Compline
- The Daily Office

**Liturgy for Life**

- The Pastoral Offices
- Thanksgiving of a Child
- Vocation
- Marriage
- Reconciliation
- Healing
- Burial

Going Deeper:

Ephesians 4  
Our Anglican Heritage, Chapters 7-8  
Book of Common Prayer, p. 851-856



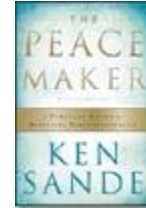
## Session 5 – Fellowship I: Unity and Reconciliation

*Unity in the Body & Biblical Peacemaking*

The Bible provides us with a simple yet powerful system for resolving conflict. These principles are so simple that they can be used to resolve the most basic or the most complex conflicts of daily life.

To gain a basic understanding of this system for biblical peacemaking, we will study the following foundational principles:

**Suggested Resource:**



**Getting to the Heart of Conflict** - Conflict starts in the heart. Therefore, if we fail to address the heart in a conflict, then any solution will fall short of true reconciliation.

**The Four G's** - The biblical system for resolving conflict is captured by "The Four G's": **G**lorify God, **G**et the log out of your own eye, **G**ently Restore, and **G**o and be reconciled.

**The Slippery Slope** - A visual tool for understanding the ways people tend to and ought to respond to conflict.

**The Seven A's of Confession** - A guide to making a sincere and complete confession.

**The Four Promises of Forgiveness** - A great way to remember what you are really saying (and committing to) when you say "I forgive you."

**The PAUSE Principle** - A biblical approach to negotiation.

**Assisted Peacemaking** – Mediation, Arbitration and Accountability

**The Peacemaker's Pledge** – A complete summary of biblical peacemaking.

**Relational Commitments** - A way for a church to make a mutual commitment to work together to pursue unity, maintain friendships, preserve marriages, and build relationships that reflect the love of Christ.

**The Gospel of Peace Mirrored Through Peacemaking** - A summary statement of how the gospel of Jesus Christ is at the core of biblical peacemaking.

## Fellowship II: Pastoral Care and Mutual Support

- Pastoral Care
- Doing Life Together
- Welcoming New Members

Going Deeper:

Ephesians 5  
Our Anglican Heritage, Chapters 9-10

[http://www.peacemaker.net/foundation\\_al\\_principles](http://www.peacemaker.net/foundation_al_principles)

## Session 6 – Discipleship I: The Christian Faith: What do we believe?

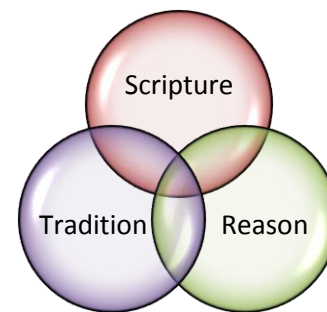
Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4:16

**Doctrine** shall mean the basic and essential teachings of the Church and is to be found in the Canon of Holy Scripture as understood in the Apostles and Nicene Creeds and in the sacramental rites, the Ordinal and Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer. (The Constitutions and Canons of the Episcopal Church, Canon IV.2, p. 132)

### The Holy Scriptures

*What do the Scriptures say about themselves?*

2 Timothy 3:<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



2 Peter 1:<sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

*What does the Episcopal Church say about the Scriptures?*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* (BCP, 236)

### The Holy Spirit (from the Catechism, BCP, 852-853)

Q. What is the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now.

- Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the Old Covenant?
- A. The Holy Spirit is revealed in the Old Covenant as the giver of life, the One who spoke through the prophets.
- Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the New Covenant?
- A. The Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord who leads us into all truth and enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ.
- Q. How do we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- A. We recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.
- Q. How do we recognize the truths taught by the Holy Spirit?
- A. We recognize truths to be taught by the Holy Spirit when they are in accord with the Scriptures.

## **The Holy Scriptures**

- Q. What are the Holy Scriptures?
- A. The Holy Scriptures, commonly called the Bible, are the books of the Old and New Testaments; other books, called the Apocrypha, are often included in the Bible.
- Q. What is the Old Testament?
- A. The Old Testament consists of books written by the people of the Old Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to show God at work in nature and history.
- Q. What is the New Testament?
- A. The New Testament consists of books written by the people of the New Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to set forth the life and teachings of Jesus and to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom for all people.
- Q. What is the Apocrypha?
- A. The Apocrypha is a collection of additional books written by people of the Old Covenant, and used in the Christian Church.
- Q. Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?
- A. We call them the Word of God because God inspired

their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.

Q. How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

A. We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures.

## **The Creeds**

*See pages 53, 96, 326, 327, and 864.*

Q. What are the creeds?

A. The creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God.

Q. How many creeds does this Church use in its worship?

A. This Church uses two creeds: The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

Q. What is the Apostles' Creed?

A. The Apostles' Creed is the ancient creed of Baptism; it is used in the Church's daily worship to recall our Baptismal Covenant.

Q. What is the Nicene Creed?

A. The Nicene Creed is the creed of the universal Church and is used at the Eucharist.

Q. What, then, is the Athanasian Creed?

A. The Athanasian Creed is an ancient document proclaiming the nature of the Incarnation and of God as Trinity.

Q. What is the Trinity?

A. The Trinity is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **The Thirty-Nine Articles: p. 867**

### ***What does it mean to be a disciple?***

1. Matt. 28:19-20
2. Growth: Ephesians 4:11-16
  - a. Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom
  - b. Spiritual Maturity
  - c. Growth in Spiritual Gifts
3. From Disciples to Apostles

Going Deeper:

Ephesians 6  
Our Anglican Heritage, Chapters  
11-12

## Discipleship II: The Christian Life: How do we live?

- Repentance
- Study
- Spiritual Disciplines & the Sacramental Life
- Fruits of the Spirit

## Repentance

### Individual Commitment in Baptism

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* I do.

### ***Continued life of repentance...***

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* I will, with God's help.

### Telling your Story of Faith: Time Line Exercise

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* I will, with God's help.

## Study

### 1. The Many Facets of Truth

- a. 1Tim. 2:6-7
- b. God is the Truth (Ps. 31:5) Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6) Holy Spirit is the Truth (1 John 5:6)
- c. Truth in our inner parts: Psalm 51:6
  - i. We not only know the truth, we internalize it and experience it.
- d. The Scriptures: (Ps. 119:43; 2 Tim. 2:15; John 17:17)
- e. Quality of Character: Men and Women of Truth (Ex. 18:21; Phil. 4:8, 1 Cor. 13:6)
- f. Specific Body of Facts (Eph. 1:13)
- g. Truth is always consistent with itself, as God cannot be a part of lies. (Titus 1:2)
- h. Its Sources:
  - i. His Spirit (1 John 5:6)
  - ii. The Bible (2 Tim. 3:16)
  - iii. People (Prov. 15:31)
  - iv. Our Conscience (1 Tim. 1:19)
  - v. Circumstances (1 Cor. 10:1-6)

### 2. What Truth Does

- a. Truth Provides a Path for Life: Ps. 119:30; Matt. 22:38-39
- b. Truth is Married to Love and Grace. (Ps. 40:10; John 1:14; 2 John 3; Psalm 85:10)
- c. Truth Saves and Gives Life (John 10:28-29)
- d. Truth Separates What is Real and What is Not (Heb. 4:12)

Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the New Covenant?

A. The Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord who leads us into all truth and enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ.

Q. How do we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

A. We recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.

Q. How do we recognize the truths taught by the Holy Spirit?

A. We recognize truths to be taught by the Holy Spirit when they are in accord with the Scriptures.

## Spiritual Disciplines & the Sacramental Life

Q. What are the sacraments?

A. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.

## Fruits of the Spirit

**Galatians 5:**<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever<sup>[c]</sup> you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The *acts of the flesh* are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the *fruit of the Spirit* is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**2 Peter 1:**<sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything we need for *a godly life* through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these *qualities* in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you *do these things*, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup> and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



## Session 7 – Ministry I: Calling and Discernment

- Calling, Vocation and Discernment of SHAPE for Ministry
- Spiritual Gifts

### Ministry

#### The Making of a Minister: A Case Study of Peter

1 Peter 5:2-3 Do not Lord it over – Be Examples – Eager to Serve (Matt 20:20-28)

#### Peter's Journey into the heart of ministry

Luke 5:1-11	Peter's Call
Matt. 8:14-17	First lesson in Jesus power and love
Matt. 11:35ff.	Plentiful Harvest – Need for Shepherds/Workers
Matt. 14:22-36	Lessons in true faith
Matt 15: 21	Canaanite Woman – Lesson scope of ministry
Matt 16:13-20	Peter's Identity in Jesus Identity
Matt. 16:21-28	Peter's Misunderstanding of his Identity – The Cross
Matt. 20:20-28	Servant Leadership
John 13:1-17	Foot washing and Pride
John 13:31-38	Betrayals
John 18	The Sword
John 18:15ff.	Peter's Denials
John 21	The Miraculous Catch and Peter's Reinstatement

#### Key Ministry Questions:

Do you love the Lord more than others?

Do you love the Lord?

Do you sacrificially love the Lord? If yes, then Jesus says "feed my sheep...follow me."



- a. Called by Name
  - i. Called by God's Name – Isa. 43:6b-7
  - ii. Called by your Name – Isa. 62:2
- b. Calling to the Cross – 1 Peter 2:21; Mark 8:34-35; 1 Peter 2:9  
Further Reading "The Foolish Call of God"  
<http://revcharlieholt.com/the-foolish-call-of-god-2/>
- c. Calling From the Throne
  - i. Endowment Shapes Service
    1. How has God SHAPE'd you for Ministry?
  - ii. Fellowship Shapes Service
    1. What is your Church doing? Join them!
  - iii. Opportunity Shapes Service
    1. Where is the Lord working? Join him!

## **Discernment**

### **Your Personal Calling – The Internal Call**

### **Your Church's Calling – The External Call**

## **Discovering My S.H.A.P.E.**

*"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous . . . You were there while I was being formed. . . . You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe." Psalm 139:14-16 (Living Bible)*

## **Purpose of Spiritual Gifts**

A spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.

- Not for my benefit, but for others: 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:7
- To produce unity and maturity in our church family: Ephesians 4:11, 13, 14
- Three ways God wants you to use your gifts:
  - Through an on-going ministry
  - Through short-term projects
  - Through spontaneous situations

## What the Bible Says about Spiritual Gifts

- Only believers have spiritual gifts: 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- Every Christian has at least one gift: 1 Corinthians 7:7.
- No one receives all the gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:27-30.
- No single gift is given to everyone:  
1 Corinthians 12:29, 30.
- You can't earn a spiritual gift: Ephesians 4:7.
- The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get: 1 Corinthians 12:11.
- The gifts I'm given are permanent: Romans 11:29.
- I am to develop the gifts God gives me: 1 Timothy 4:14.
- It's a sin to waste the gifts God gives me:  
1 Corinthians 4:1, 2 and Matthew 25:14-30.
- Using my gifts glorifies God and edifies/"grows" me: John 15:8.

## My S.H.A.P.E.

**Spiritual Gifts** - your special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ. Spiritual gifts reveal part of God's will for your ministry, but not all of it. If you would like to know more about your Spiritual Gifts, ask others, take a Spiritual Gifts Test.

Key: Identify the gifts God has given you. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Peter 4:9-11.

**Heart (Passions)** - represents your desires, interests and inclinations. Your heart determines why you say the things you do (Matt. 12:34), why you feel the way you do (Psalm 34:7), and why you act the way you do (Proverbs 4:23). There are certain things you feel passionate about and others turn you off. God has a purpose in giving you your inborn interests; don't ignore them! They will help you be fruitful in ministry.

Key: Clarify what you really love to do. Philippians 2:13; Revelation 17:7.

**Abilities** - These are the natural talents, skills and abilities that you were born with and have acquired during your life. Exodus 31:3 tells us that God gives people "skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..." in order to accomplish His purposes.

Key: Appreciate and apply the natural talents and vocational skills you have to your ministry. Exodus 31:3; 1 Corinthians 12:6; 2 Corinthians 3:5b

**Personality** - We need all kinds of personalities to accomplish God's will. Your personality will affect how and where you use your spiritual gifts and abilities. For instance, two people may have the same gift, but if one is introverted and the other is extroverted, that gift will be expressed in different ways. To learn more about your "personality type", take a Personality I.D. Assessment like Myers-Briggs or DISC.

Key: Learn how your God-given temperament can best be used in ministry. 1 Corinthians 2:11

**Experience** - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). All experiences - good, bad, educational, work related, volunteer, church, secular - help make us who we are.

Key: Review your history to discover how God has prepared you for a unique ministry that only you can fulfill! Proverbs 4:13; 2 Corinthians 1:4; Hebrews 5:12, 13

## Biblical Example: Paul

- **Paul's Spiritual Gifts** ([2 Timothy 1:11](#)):
  - preacher
  - apostle
  - teacher
- **Paul's Heart:** [Acts 20:24](#); [Galatians 2:8](#)
- **Paul's Abilities:** [Acts 18:2-4](#)
- **Paul's Personality:** [Galatians 1:13, 14](#)
- **Paul's Experiences:**
  - Spiritual:
    - Watching Stephen be stoned, [Acts 8:1](#)
    - Conversion on the Damascus Road, [Acts 9:1-20](#)
    - Three years maturing in Arabia, [Galatians 1:18](#)
    - Special vision from God, [2 Corinthians 12:2-7](#)
  - Painful: [2 Corinthians 11:23-27](#); [2 Corinthians 12:7](#)
  - Educational: [Acts 22:3](#)
  - Ministry: Read the book of [Acts](#)!

## Cautions about Spiritual Gifts

- Don't confuse gifts with natural talents (abilities).
- Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit: fruit shows my maturity; gifts show my ministry. [Galatians 5:22, 23](#).
- Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.
- Be aware of gift projection: expecting others to serve the way I do and have similar results.
- Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. [1 Corinthians 12:21](#).
- Realize that using my gift without love is worthless! [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#).
- Recognize that I have a primary and secondary ministry in my church: primary ministry should be in the area I am gifted; secondary includes serving in any other area of the Body when I am needed.

Going Deeper:

Our Anglican Heritage, Chapters 13-14  
Book of Common Prayer, p. 845-862  
Take the Spiritual Gift test:  
<http://www.stpetersministry.org/>

## Discover Your SHAPE for Ministry

S.H.A.P.E. is an acronym that helps explain the five elements that determine what a person's ministry should be. To a great extent, your SHAPE effects how you think, motivate, play, work, minister, interact with others and even how you live.

When we have some understanding about our SHAPE, we begin to see why some tasks, challenges, and even people are a natural fit for us and yet others are a struggle.

### **Your SHAPE is made up of your:**

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS** - your special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ. Spiritual gifts reveal part of God's will for your ministry, but not all of it. If you would like to know more about your Spiritual Gift, take the Spiritual Gift Analysis.

**HEART** (passions) - represents your desires, interests and inclinations. Your heart determines why you say the things you do (Matt. 12:34), why you feel the way you do (Psalm 34:7), and why you act the way you do (Proverbs 4:23). There are certain things you feel passionate about and others turn you off. God has a purpose in giving you your inborn interests; don't ignore them! They will help you be fruitful in ministry.

**ABILITIES** - These are the natural talents, skills and abilities that you were born with and have acquired during your life. Exodus 31:3 tells us that God gives people "skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..." in order to accomplish His purposes.

**PERSONALITY** - We need all kinds of personalities to accomplish God's will. Your personality will affect how and where you use your spiritual gifts and abilities. For instance, two people may have the same gift, but if one is introverted and the other is extroverted, that gift will be expressed in different ways. To learn more about your "personality type", take the Personality I.D. Assessment.

**EXPERIENCES** - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). All experiences - good, bad, educational, work related, volunteer, church, secular - help make us who we are.  
Now that I know my SHAPE, where do I go from here?

Every believer is uniquely SHAPed for a particular ministry. Knowing your SHAPE will help you determine what type of Ministry God wants you to serve in. No matter what your personal or professional "calling", God has called you to develop your personal Mission, and, by His power, to walk out your Vision in today's world. When you minister in a manner consistent with your heart, personality, gifts and abilities God gave you, you experience fulfillment, satisfaction and fruitfulness.

God deserves your best. He SHAPed you for a purpose, and He expects you to make the most of what you have been given! Don't let another day go by. Find out today what God intends for you to be and do! Once you understand your God-given SHAPE, don't keep it a secret!

**Share your SHAPE with your church family and begin experiencing fulfillment, satisfaction and fruitfulness in serving God and others!**

## Ministry II: Stewardship – Time, Talent and Treasure

- The Biblical Call to Tithing
- Making the Most of the Days: Priorities
- Stewardship of the Body

## Session 8 – Mission

- Sharing the Gospel in Word and Deed
- Mission to the Poor
- The Anglican Global Mission

## Key Scripture:

### **The Creation Mandate: Genesis 1:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

*Three R's: Reflect, Reproduce and Reign*

## **Salt and Light**

### **Salt and Light: Matthew 5:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

*What does it mean to be Salt and Light?*

### **The Sheep and the Goats: Matt. 25:31ff.**

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I

was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

<sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

<sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

<sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. "

*Will you seek and serve Christ in all people loving your neighbor as yourself?*

*I will with God's help.*

## **The Great Commission Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*Four Mandates of the Great Commission: Go, Make, Baptize, Teach*

*Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? I will with God's help.*

## **Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth: Acts 1:4-8**

<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

*What does it mean to be a martyr or witness for Jesus Christ?*

## What is Next?

- Making the Commitment
- Confirmation, Reception & Renewal of Vows