

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP

PENTECOST SEASON 2021

THE FIFTH PROMISE (WEDNESDAYS - SEPTEMBER 15, 22, 29, OCT 6 AND 13)

OPENING PRAYER FOR STUDY

As we gather together to learn, to grow and to change we ask;
Gracious God, help us to move into a deeper understanding of your truth.
We lay our lives down before you and ask that you would move amongst us.
May we all feel safe with each other. Safe to think and question, safe to ask for help,
and safe to share our lives with each other and with you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Best Practices for your own study and in a group setting.

- Keep an open heart and mind.
- Remember that there is no one correct interpretation of the sacred text.
- Allow yourself to hear others thoughts, and heartfelt beliefs.
- Welcome questions, ask lots of questions. Listen deeply.
- Read different versions of the sacred text and take note of the differences. Identify whether you are reading a translation or a paraphrase.
- Explore the historical and cultural context of what you are reading.
- Consult a wide theological diversity of commentaries. Traditional and contemporary thoughts.
- Make study a regular part of your faith journey.
- Share only what you feel comfortable sharing.
- Remember that all faith is a living breathing experience and changing our mind or position on a theological premise is not a failure.
- End with Prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER FOR STUDY

God of all Creation, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Thank you that we can live in your light and walk in your truth.
May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Redeemer, Saviour, Pattern of Life. Amen.

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

THE CREED

Question

Do you believe in God?

Answer

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

Question

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

Answer

I believe in Jesus the Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour and Redeemer. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of Virgin Mary. Jesus 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 Creator. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Question

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Answer

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THE PROMISES

Question

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

Answer

I will with God's help.

Question

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

Answer

I will with God's help.

Question

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

Answer

I will with God's help.

Question

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

Answer

I will with God's help.

Question

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human person.

Answer

I will with God's help.

Question

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

Answer

I will with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human person.

I will with God's help.



What is JUSTICE?

Please watch the following video created by The Bible Project.

<https://bibleproject.com/learn/justice/>

- I. What is the definition of Justice in our society, and according to scripture? How do they differ?
- II. There are different kinds of justice - the four used most often are **Distributive** (determining who gets what), **Procedural** (determining how fairly people are treated), **Retributive** (based on punishment for wrong doing), and **Restorative** (which tries to restore relationships to 'rightness') - what types of justice do we as Christians use?
- III. What if any is the relationship between judgement and justice?
- IV. How do we understand the violence and genocide in the scripture often led by God, to be justice? (Ex: Deuteronomy 20:16-18; Joshua 6:20-21)
- V. How are justice and righteousness connected?

Scripture - There are many different translations and paraphrases of the scripture. Reading the same scripture verses from different translations is an excellent way to hear more from the sacred text.

Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

Deuteronomy 16:20

Leviticus 19:15

Psalms 82:3, 85:10; 146:7-9

Proverbs 21:15; 29:26,

Isaiah 1:17; 30:18-20

Hosea 12:6,

Micah 6:8,

Amos 5:24

Romans 14:17

Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-22

Matthew 25:35, 36

Luke 11:42; 18:1-8

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human person.

I will with God's help.



What is PEACE?

Please watch this video created by the Bible Project.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/shalom-peace/>

- I. Peace as the absence of conflict is connected to our personal and national safety. Read the attached article which sites Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his Lutheran views. <https://jwwartick.com/2019/06/24/peace-dared/> What is your personal definition of peace?
- II. Have you ever experienced 'peace' in an ongoing conflict, illness, or other difficult situation?
- III. How is Jesus the Prince of Peace and what does it mean for your life and our Christian witness?
- IV. Many, many problems plague our society, racism, sexism, patriarchy, misogyny, poverty, etc. - how is the 'peace' of Christ the solution?

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Here are only a few of the scriptures that speak about peace - do your own search - do you have a favourite peace passage?

Numbers 6:26

Psalms 37:37; 107:28,29

Isaiah 9:6; 53:5

Job 22:21-22

Romans 12:17-18

Hebrews 12:14

Mark 4:35-41

Matthew 5:9

Matthew 6:25-35 and Luke 12:22-32 (Consider the lilies of the field)

John 14:27

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Please read the following article - <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/oct/26/justice-peace-conflict-affected-societies>

- I. How are justice and peace linked - or are they?
- II. Is it possible to have one without the other?
- III. How do ideas and movements like Black Lives Matter, and Defund the Police contribute to justice and peace?
- IV. Is justice only about LAW - or is it about equity in food, housing, education, access to medical services and more?
- V. What sacrifices are you prepared to make in your life for justice and or peace?



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Isaiah 9:6-7; 32:17;
 Psalm 72:3-5
 Proverbs 21:15; 31:25
 Job 12:22; 40:10
 Esther 4:14

Luke 10:25-37 (Good Samaritan)
 John 14:27

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Please watch the following video about Psalm 8 created by the Bible Project.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/psalm-8/>

Questions

1. According to Psalm 8 - who are human beings - what have we been endowed with by the Creator?
2. What is dignity - in our society and according to our faith? Are they different?
2. Is dignity linked to purpose, status or privilege?
3. Do some people have dignity and others not? Why?
4. How do we respect the dignity of every human person?
5. What is human dignity?



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Definition of dignity from Merriam-Webster.com

- 1: formal *reserve* or seriousness of manner, appearance, or language
- 2: the quality or state of being *worthy*, honoured, or esteemed
- 3a: high rank, office, or position
 - b: a legal title of nobility or honour
- 4 archaic : DIGNITARY

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-31; 2:7

Psalm 139:13; Proverbs 22:2; 31:25,26

Philippians 4:8; Colossians 4:1-18

Luke 7:31-50