

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP

PENTECOST SEASON 2021

THE SIXTH PROMISE (WEDNESDAYS - NOV 10 AND 17)

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

I will with God's help.



God's Creation

Please watch the following video created by The Bible Project.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/genesis-1-11/>

Read the excerpt from The Beautiful CreatureL Trees in the Biblical Story by Sylvia Keesmaat found on page 5.

- I. What are the stages of Creation?
- II. What is our (humanities) relationship to Creation?
- III. Is the earth a living breathing reflection of God, and does it have its own autonomy (or should it)?
- IV. How do violence disobedience lead to the destruction of the earth?

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>

Genesis 1:1- 2:4

Deuteronomy 20:19

Psalms 104:30

1 Kings 5:5-6

Romans 8:19-23

Matthew 7:19

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

I will with God's help.



Cedars of Lebanon

In the beginning, there were no trees. There were no trees, for there was no rain to nourish them and no creature to tend them. In the beginning, there was the Voice. The Voice called the earth to birth the trees. As the Voice called and beckoned, the earth brought forth and the growth began: sap rushed up, limbs stretched, breaking the moist soil, reaching for the warmth of the sun. Roots groped, stretched, moved through the crumbly earth, embraced and cleft rocks, drew nourishment. Buds formed and leaves unfurled, fluffy and small, growing as the sun dried and warmed them and as sap filled them.

The Voice said, "Be trees full of life, be strong. Grow fruit for the birds and the animals, and branches for their homes. Be pleasing to look at, shout forth the grandeur of the Word. Dig your roots deep; draw nourishment from the earth."

And the trees became living beings.

Then the trees watched as the Voice called forth once again, as the Voice formed another creature out of the earth. "This is the earth creature," said the Voice, "who will tend you, who will dress your figs and prune your young blossoms. This is the creature who will provide water in your youth and pruning in your old age."

Then the Voice spoke to two of the trees. "You are the tree of life," said the Voice to one, "And you are the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," the Voice said to the other. "You are set apart for the covenantal meal I will share with my image bearer—the meal that will bring life, and, eventually, knowledge."¹

The trees rejoiced in their calling, but not so much that they didn't hear the words spoken to the image, the words that made the trees wonder at the gravity of their calling: "Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it you will die."

The trees wondered at how it had all gone wrong so quickly. Oh, they knew what had happened, all right. They had overheard the conversation as they surrounded the serpent, the woman, and the man. They bore mute witness as the wisest of the animals discussed the words of the Voice with the woman. They watched in silence as the image took the fruit, the fruit that belonged only to the Voice, and ate it. They knew that if their gifts were taken at the wrong time, there would be no nourishment; they knew that grasping would result in death, not life.²

Before the Voice returned in the cool of the evening, the trees had already begun to mourn.

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

I will with God's help.

Please watch the attached video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Puv0Pss33M>

- I. What is the Plastic Disaster?
- II. What is Climate Chaos?
- III. Is greed at the core of our disobedience to God, and the devolution of this planet we call home?
- IV. What are some concrete ways to respect, sustain, and renew the life of the planet?
- V. What sacrifices are you prepared to make in your life for the planet, for future generations - and to God?



Consider watching any or all of the following videos. While watching keep in mind that this planet is a gift of the Creator of the universe.

Why Climate Change is a human rights issue

https://www.ted.com/playlists/493/why_climate_change_is_a_human

Put a Value on Nature https://www.ted.com/talks/pavan_sukhdev_put_a_value_on_nature

How to reduce your diet's Carbon Footprint without going Vegan https://www.ted.com/talks/brian_kateman_how_to_reduce_your_diet_s_carbon_footprint_without_going_vegan

Katherine Wilkinson - so much good stuff from her and her compassionate heart.

https://www.ted.com/speakers/katharine_wilkinson