

**LEARNING PACKET FOR**  
**CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION OR REAFFIRMATION**  
**October 19, 2014**

**Session 1: The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments**

*(Please schedule on your own)*

**Meeting Date & Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Resources:**

- An Outline of the Faith (Commonly known as The Catechism), *The Book of Common Prayer*, pp853-854 (“The Holy Scriptures”)
- The Holy Bible – Bring a copy with you, along with your prayer book.

**Guidelines for conversation:**

- Share your own experiences with the Bible. Talk about the role or importance of the Bible in your childhood. Where are there copies of the Bible in your house now? Do you know what translation is used? (King James Version, New Revised Standard Version, etc).
- What do you think about the Bible? How has it been meaningful for you? What is difficult or easy about the Bible?
- Share experiences, ideas, methods, etc. of Bible Study. What resources do you have? What resources do you need? How might you deepen your understanding or relationship with scripture?

**Assignment:**

- Pledge to read the one of the four Gospels in its entirety between now and October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Make note of questions, concerns, or passages that were particularly meaningful to you.

## Session 2: The Historic Creeds & the Baptismal Covenant

*(Please schedule on your own)*

**Meeting Date & Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Resources:**

- An Outline of the Faith (Commonly known as The Catechism), *The Book of Common Prayer*, pp851-852 (“The Creeds”) & pp858-859 (“Holy Baptism”)
- The Creed of Saint Athanasius (*BCP*, p864)
- The Apostle’s Creed (*BCP*, p96)
- The Nicene Creed (*BCP*, p358)
- The Baptismal Covenant (*BCP*, p304-305)

### **Guidelines for conversation:**

- Before coming to the meeting, read through the resources listed above and jot down your questions or insights.
- The word “creed” comes from the Latin *credere*, which means “what I put my heart and my trust into.” Where do you put your heart and your trust?
- How do the Baptismal Promises in the Baptismal Covenant relate to what we say we believe in the Creeds?

### **Assignment:**

- Write down your “personal creed.” How does your life show that you put your heart and trust into that creed? How could you act on your creed more clearly in your daily life? How can Jesus support you in living out your creed?

## Session 3: The Holy Eucharist

(Please schedule on your own)

**Meeting Date & Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Resources:

- Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)
- An Outline of the Faith (Commonly known as The Catechism), *The Book of Common Prayer*, pp859-860 (“The Holy Eucharist”)
- The Holy Eucharist, Rite I (BCP pp323-349)
- The Holy Eucharist, Rite II (BCP pp355-399)
- An Order for Celebrating the Holy Eucharist (BCP pp400-409)

### Guidelines for conversation:

- Before coming to the meeting, read through the resources listed above and jot down your questions or insights.
- What did you learn about the Last Supper & the early Christian practices of Eucharist from Biblical accounts?
- The Greek word *Eucharist* literally means “thanksgiving.” For what are we giving thanks in our celebrations of the Eucharist?
- Have you had an experience of Christ’s presence in the Eucharist? What is most important to you about this Sacrament?

### Assignment:

- Between now and October 12<sup>th</sup>, observe the Eucharist carefully using the Handout provided in this packet.

## **Worship Worksheet for Session 3:**

**Take this sheet with you on one occasion as you attend Sunday Eucharist. Make notes on this or another sheet of paper. Later, as you reflect on the service fill out this form and bring it to your next discussion with your preparation partner.**

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Gathering***

What is the liturgical color for the day (color of the stoles, chasuble, altar frontal)?

What is the mood of the processional hymn (first hymn)?

Does the church seem empty, full, or somewhere in between? (Circle one)

### ***Word***

- Today's Old Testament Lesson is from the book of \_\_\_\_\_
- Today's Psalm is \_\_\_\_\_
- Today's Epistle or New Testament Lesson is from \_\_\_\_\_
- Today's Gospel Lesson is (Book, Chapter, Verse)

In one short sentence, what is the Gospel theme or message?

Who is giving the sermon today?

Which Scripture lesson(s) does the preacher seem to be focusing on?

Circle one: OT      Psalm      Epistle/NT      Gospel

Take a few notes on the sermon in the space below. For instance, write down the words or phrases that the preacher repeats or emphasizes. If a story or an example makes sense to you, make a note about it. After the sermon is finished, during communion when you are waiting, come back to this page, look at your notes, and answer the next question.

What do you think was the main idea that the preacher was trying to share with the congregation today?

### ***Response to the Word***

During the prayers of the people, what was one joy or concern that caught your attention?

We pass God's peace as the sign of Restoration of ourselves to God and one another after the confession & absolution. Pass the peace with at least five people around you. If you know any of their first names, write them here:

What do you think is the *significance* of the offering (outside of practical financial resources for the church's ministry)?

What were your thoughts and feelings today as you received communion, or what is something you noticed (about communion) as you received the sacrament?

***Sending***

\_\_\_\_\_ shared the blessing today at the end of the service.  
\_\_\_\_\_ shared the dismissal.

Having been fed in body and soul, do you feel ready to go out into the world to love and serve the Lord? In what way?

Will you do anything differently this week because of something you learned or felt in today's worship service? If so, what?

What part of the service most inspired or moved you (Scripture, music, sermon, communion, prayers . . . anything else?)

Do you know why this part of the service was meaningful to you today?

Did anything unusual happen in the service today? If so, what was it?

## Session 4: The Book of Common Prayer & The Catechism

*(Please schedule on your own)*

**Meeting Date & Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Resources:**

- *The Book of Common Prayer & An Outline of the Faith* (Commonly known as The Catechism) pp845-862
- Online resources on the Book of Common Prayer:
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book\\_of\\_Common\\_Prayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Common_Prayer)
  - [www.episcopalchurch.org/page/book-common-prayer](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/book-common-prayer)
  - [www.canonhauck.net](http://www.canonhauck.net) (Resources for a four session study of the Bible & the Book of Common Prayer)

### **Guidelines for conversation:**

- Spend some time familiarizing yourselves with the Table of Contents of the Prayer Book & the variety of services and prayers contained within. Did you know that the entire Book of Psalms (or Psalter) is in the Prayer Book?
- Read through and discuss the service for Confirmation (pp412-419)
- Notice the Historical Documents of the Church (pp863-877), especially The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral 1886, 1888. This was a means of finding a basis for reconciliation with the splintered denominations of the Christian Church at the beginning of the Ecumenical Movement. How might this document still pertain to our own time?

### **Assignment:**

- Just for fun, see if you can make sense of how the Church determines the date of Easter each year. Look at page 880 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Good luck with the Golden Number!