

Additional Resources

Teaching Resources

The Diocesan Resource Center pages (Christian Education and Adult Formation) of the Diocese of Connecticut's website (<http://www.ctdiocese.org/resources/christianed.shtml>) has extensive listings of other resources and website links for youth and adults. Copies of many of them are available to preview or borrow from the Resource Center. Contact Sharon Ely Pearson 860-233-4481 x126 or spearson@ctdiocese.org.

It is important to understand that each of us has **different learning style preferences**. To more effectively connect with each candidate, intentionally choose a variety of styles to include in preparing sessions.

- ✦ *Interpersonal* – person-to-person relationships; communication – discussion, small group work, service projects
- ✦ *Intrapersonal* – inside the person; reflection – journal writing, guided imagery, silence.
- ✦ *Verbal/Linguistic* – written and spoken language – reading, writing, reporting, listening
- ✦ *Logical/Mathematical* – inductive and deductive reasoning – recognition of patterns. Analyzing, identifying, planning, sequencing
- ✦ *Visual/Spatial* – real and mental images; relationships of objects – drawing, visualizing, imagining, see a picture or item, symbols, making a banner.
- ✦ *Body/Kinesthetic* – tapping into the body's inherent ways of knowing – movement, touch, manipulating objects, dance
- ✦ *Musical/Rhythmic* – sensitivity to patterns and sounds, rhythms and beat – listening to music, singing, writing lyrics, creating music in its various styles

Materials & Published Curricula:

A Disciple's Prayer Book is a little booklet from Native Episcopalians that is an excellent tool for engaging in conversation regarding scripture in the context of brief worship.

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/6057_4133_ENG_HTM.htm

The Discovery Series: A Christian Journey (Episcopal Diocese of Texas 800-318-4452 or www.epicenter.org) is a comprehensive video series that includes a brief history of the Episcopal Church, an instructed Eucharist, spiritual gifts assessment, information about the Bible, Jesus, the Creeds and Baptism. (The Diocese of Connecticut owns several copies of this series on DVD and VHS, all available to lend to parishes.)

The Seekers (LeaderResources) is a two-year discussion program structured around Faith, Life, Self and Values. Especially helpful are plans for retreats.

A People Called Episcopalians: A Brief Introduction to Our Peculiar Way of Life by The Rev. Dr. John H. Westerhoff (Morehouse) is a 40-page booklet that attempts to address the foundational issues of what it means to be an Episcopalian, devoting chapters to things Anglican: Identity, Authority, Spirituality, Temperament and Polity.

Living Water: Baptism as a Way of Life by Klara Tammany (Church Publishing) explores through music, prayer, poetry and story following the Baptismal Covenant. Ideas for group discussion and study included.

Sealed and Sent Forth: A Curriculum for Older Youth and Adults (LeaderResources) is a Confirmation program developed by the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina for Confirmation, Reception, Re-Affirmation, New Members. Sessions include worship, content, discussion, reflection and community building that are designed to be used over a 15 week period of two-hour sessions.

A Catechism Curriculum by David Klutterman (LeaderResources) is a resource based on The Catechism in The Book of Common Prayer 1979. It is designed for use in a congregation from kindergarten through adult, divided into 18 sections, following the format in the Prayer Book.

Specifically for Youth:

Claim the Name Confirmation Teaching Plans (Cokesbury) – although Methodist in its approach, there are a number of activities and scripture studies, following the Church Year, which can be easily adapted.

Making Disciples: A New Approach to Confirmation by William H. Willimon (Logos Productions) – also Methodist, has excellent discussion questions that mentors can tap into for meeting with their confirmand.

What do Others Believe? (Morehouse) – a nine-week module from the Episcopal Curriculum for Older Youth that explores other religions (Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism) to gain a better understanding of their own beliefs. Visits to other denominations and faith traditions are excellent ways to gain a perspective on the uniqueness of Episcopal liturgy and belief.

Difficult Decisions (Morehouse) – a nine-week module from the Episcopal Curriculum for Older Youth the focuses on ethical decision making.

Sacraments of the Church (Morehouse) – a nine-week module from the Episcopal Curriculum for Younger Youth explores Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Healing, Confirmation, Marriage and Ordination.

The Episcopal Church Year (Morehouse) – a nine-week module from the Episcopal Curriculum for Younger Youth examines the church seasons and sights and sounds of church.

Spiritual Life (Morehouse) – a nine-week module from the Episcopal Curriculum for Younger Youth looks at the threads that form our personal experiences – from ways of praying to the ethics of the church.

Keeping the Promise by Andrew Parker (Morehouse) – while its didactic approach is not recommended, there is a chapter that discusses “ministry” in terms of “the church scattered and the church gathered” that may be helpful in tying service projects to our Baptismal Covenant. There is also a “Vigil on the Eve of Confirmation.”

LinC – Living in Christ: Youth Connecting Faith and Life (<http://www.ileadyouth.com/resources.asp>) (Cokesbury) is a subscription-based curriculum, available by fax or e-mail. Content comes from current events and media (movies, music, television) which is then paired with appropriate scripture. Bible readings for the week are included, as are devotions. Past issues are also available, especially in regard to world events such as 9/11, War in Iraq, elections, etc.

Blessing New Voices: Prayers of Young People and Worship Resources for Youth Ministry (United Church Press) by Maren C. Tirabassi is filled with seasonal ideas and prayers

The Journey to Adulthood (LeaderResources) is a comprehensive 6-year Christian formation program for Grades 6-12 that includes in depth exploration of Self, Spirituality, Sexuality and Society. It includes Sunday morning lesson plans, rites of passage liturgies, movie nights, mission project ideas, and ministry discernment.

I Will, with God's Help (Living the Good News) is a six week Confirmation program based on the Baptismal Covenant that can be adapted for retreats. Journaling and mentor material are helpful.

The Book of Uncommon Prayer: Contemplative Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry by Steven L. Case (Youth Specialties) is a collection of daily prayers, seasonal worship services, prayers, responsive readings and private devotions for those who work with youth.

The Great Adventure: Exploring Christian Faith with Young People by Patricia Bays (Anglican Book Centre) a collection of stories, art projects, games and meditations for ages 10-15 that can be adapted for use with older youth.

Specifically for Adults:

The Bible Workbench (The Educational Center) is a lectionary Bible study resource that involves a weekly exploration of Biblical texts, with commentary, readings from literature and evocative questions for use by groups and individuals. <http://www.educationalcenter.org/pages/courses.html>

Emmaus: The Way of Faith (Morehouse) is a multi-phase study program that fosters Christian formation and discipleship in the congregation. Emmaus courses are modeled after the story of Jesus walking with two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection. They are divided into three stages: Contact, Nurture, and Growth, to serve Christians who are at different points in their faith journey. Developed by five Anglican clergy in England.

Practically Christian (LeaderResources) links the five baptismal vows of the Episcopal Church with six classical prayer forms of Adoration, penitence, Intercession, Petition, Thanksgiving and Praise. Originally designed as an EFM follow-up model, it can be used for Newcomers or Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Outward Signs: The Congregation as Sacramental Community (Leader Resources) a means to help a congregation consider its worship, stewardship, outreach, education, evangelization, and fellowship as outwards signs of Christ's love.

The Seventh Day: Embracing Sabbath Spirituality (Leader Resources) 6 sessions to prayerfully practice the rhythm of rest and delight in daily life.

Venture: Exploring the Great Ideas and Images of the Christian Faith. (OACES: Leader Resources) A study and discussion program in four series of 6 sessions per subject of: Theology, Church History, Liturgics, and Holy Scripture. Series A: Christian Beginnings; Series B: Reformations; Series C; Prophetic Voices of Freedom; Series D: One God, Many Faiths.

The New Church's Teaching Series (Cowley):

- *The Anglican Vision* by James E. Griffiss - An introduction to the Anglican tradition, including the origins of Anglicanism, the Catholic and Evangelical renewal movements of the nineteenth century, and a survey of Anglican mission, theology and worship.

- *Opening the Bible* by Roger Ferlo - A guide to navigating the practical difficulties of reading the Bible. Explains why the pages look the way they do, how to compare translations, and how to use notes and cross-references. Above all, the author teaches the importance of respectfully approaching the Bible as scripture.
- *Engaging the Word* by Michael Johnston - The Bible always invites us to read below its surface, because the mystery of God is found not simply on the page or within the text, but behind it. Through the insights of this book, we delve deeply into the life and story of scripture.
- *The Practice of Prayer* by Margaret Guenther - Tackles timeless and troubling questions about the spiritual life, and discusses classic Christian approaches to prayer and shaping a rule of life through practices such as making a confession, going on retreat, using a journal to pray, finding a spiritual director, and praying when God does not seem to listen.
- *Living with History* by Fredrica Harris Thompsett - A conversation on the mission of the church, engaging different historical figures.
- *Early Christian Traditions* by Rebecca Lyman - Traces the growth of the Christian church's theology, worship, leadership, and ethics through its first six centuries, ending with Augustine of Hippo.
- *Opening the Prayer Book* by Jeffrey Lee - A practical introduction to the Book of Common Prayer; its history, structure, and the questions most asked about it.
- *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh - Spiritual theology, the doctrines underlying Christian belief.
- *The Christian Social Witness* by Harold Lewis - Christian social teachings and the changing relationship of church and society.
- *A Theology of Worship* by Louis Weil - Invites the laity to claim their true baptismal role and serve alongside the ordained as ministers and celebrants of the liturgy and why it is necessary to reclaim it today in the midst of Anglicanism's increasing multiculturalism.
- *Ethics After Easter* by Stephen Holgrom - Identifies clear axioms for Anglican moral theology and the ethos required for moral decision-making on the part of individuals and church bodies. He explains why ethical reflection is not the same as church governance, and why the institution cannot "make" its moral theology.
- *Horizons of Mission* by Titus Presler - Explores the scriptural basis of mission, historical and contemporary Anglican approaches to mission, the encounter with other religions, and the interaction of gospel and culture. His ten principles for mission in the twenty-first century will help parishes and dioceses to engage in world mission as companions in mutuality.

Seabury Classics (Church Publishing):

- *A Season for the Spirit Readings for the Days of Lent* by Martin L. Smith - provides forty daily meditations for Lent, leading us on a journey of discovery in which we find that Christ, through the Spirit, embraces every aspect of our humanity.
- *Living the Faith Community The Church That Makes A Difference* by John H. Westerhoff - Christians have a basic need for communities without which they cannot receive, sustain, or deepen their faith. Successive chapters describe with clarity and insight the narrative characters of church life, the role of worship, the importance of liturgy to Christian nurture, and the role of catechesis in forming Spirit-filled community.
- *One to Watch, One to Pray Introducing the Gospels* by Minka Shura Sprague This book sketches the shape of the Gospels, the four stories of Jesus. It reveals their similarities and differences and how they relate to one another.
- *Temptation* by Diogenes Allen - Temptation offers us a doorway into the mystery of God. Using a model of the three temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness: the temptations of material goods, security, and prestige - to face the reality of these temptations, even though we cannot overcome them, is to enter upon the spiritual life.
- *The Anglican Spirit* by Michael Ramsey - These introductory lectures on Anglicanism reveal the breadth of the former Archbishop of Canterbury theological understanding, his ecumenism, and his

vision of the church and the Christian life. Informal and conversational in style, the lectures offer an overview of Anglican theology, spirituality, and history.

- *The Joy of Worship* by Marianne H. Micks - discusses the work of the Holy Spirit in worship, Jesus' own practice of worship, the importance of worshiping with others, and the practice of discipleship through personal prayer, friendship, and a rule of life.
- *The Language of Grace* by Peter S. Hawkins The traditional representation of grace is explained using the parables of Jesus and contemporary literature,
- *We are Theologians Strengthening the People of God* by Fredrica Harris Thompsett - Introduces key facets of Anglicanism and aspects of contemporary theology. It is an excellent parish educational resource, especially for adult forums and group study.

<p style="text-align: center;">Prayers & Worship Resources <i>For gatherings, mission trips, liturgies</i></p>

Planning for the Future

by Avery Brooke from "Plain Prayers for a Complicated World"

Help us, Lord, to look at the past and present so that we may better plan for the future, and to face our strengths and weaknesses with honesty and wisdom. Help us to be open to your guidance as we discuss and plan for the future, and grant us both generous imagination and practical plans.

An Evening Prayer

by Avery Brooke

Father, I have much to be grateful for tonight, and I thank you, I have much to regret and I ask your forgiveness. But even as I ask your forgiveness I know that I receive it, and a deep peace fills my heart. Help me to sleep well tonight and to wake ready for that daily, yet greatest gifts, a fresh start.

"On Foot" Blessing

Celtic Daily Prayer

Bless to me, O Lord,
the earth beneath my feet;
bless to me, O Lord,
the path I tread:
my walk this day with the Father,
my walk this day with Christ,
my walk this day with the Spirit.

For Times of Change

by The Rev. Linda C. Smith-Criddle from "Women's Uncommon Prayers"

Assist us, Lord, in living hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by "the new" and to guard against our own defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Listening

by Ms. Helen Barron from "Women's Uncommon Prayers"

To hear – really hear – amid the noise
To risk being open to another perspective amid the impacted certainties
To be able to listen to impassioned pleas while owning the cries that come from our own hearts.
To hear an argument that does not resonate, disagree, if that be our call, without demeaning the bearer of the words.
Amid the colliding words injured by the words injuring with our words:
Help us to hear your Words. Amen.

A Blessing on Someone's Journey

Celtic Daily Prayer

I bless you, (Name),
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Sacred Spirit.
May you drink deeply
from God's cup of joy.
May the night bring you quiet.
and when you come
to the Father's palace
may his door be open
and the welcome warm.

Prayer for Mission

From the "Book of Uncommon Prayer"

God, your children are hungry. They're lonely. They're cold. Don't let us walk by them on the other side of the road, God. We get so caught up in our own lives and our own so-called "problems" that we forget there are people who sleep in the streets. Open our eyes. Light a fire under us so that we can do all Jesus told us we should do. Help us give a hand up and not a hand out. Help us show the world we are your children. Help us show the world that the church is more than building with brick and stained glass. Church is a warm blanket, a hot meal, a listening ear. When we offer ourselves to those in need, Lord, we offer ourselves to you. Amen.

Prayers from the Heart

adapted from "Sacred Heart University Prayer Book"

God of wisdom, bless these Confirmants
Whose hearts you have fashioned
For beauty and grace.
Bless those who love them
And those who have guided them
To this holy time and place.
Call them to discovery,
To seek their truest self,
To fall in love with wisdom
And claim her as their wealth.
Send them forth in knowledge,
Your teachings be their guide.
Watch over them,
Protect them,
Walk softly by their side. Amen.

Christ Has No Body

From Teresa of Avila, 17th Century

Christ has no body on earth but yours;
yours are the only hands with which he can do his work,
yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world,
yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth upon a troubled world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Prayer of a Confirmation Teacher / Mentor

from "Daybook for New Voices"

God – Con-firm my foundation.
As I begin this confirmation program as a teacher (mentor) –
Help me to share my excitement about the Bible,
my depth of spirituality and
real examples of how it sustains me,
(in fact, God, help me to be a little more spiritual
while these young people are watching me),
my knowledge about Church history,
my pride in our denomination,
my openness to our neighbors in world religions,
and my grappling with my own ethical decisions
and the decisions that young people make.

As they are learning, guide me to learn something new.
As they growing, stretch my roots and bud-tips;
When they wrestle with questions,
evaporate the easy answers on my lips,
and, whether I have taught these concepts
ten, twenty, forty years, or this year is for the first time . . .
bring me with enthusiasm and humility to
God's holy power-point presentation . . .
The con-firmation of our faith. Amen.

Confirmation Blessing

adapted from "Sacred Heart University Prayer Book"

May God give you strength
And a virtuous heart,
So that in time of trial
You will find yourself armed with treasures you can use.
 May God give you faith,
 So that in all that you do,
 You know firmly and with conviction
 Who made you, and why,
 And for what purpose.
 May God give you peace, a lasting peace
 That dwells in your heart
 And enables you to comprehend
 The breadth and length,
 The height and depth of Christ's love for you. Amen.

My Prayer for You

Celtic Daily Prayer

May the Father of Life pour out His grace on you;
may you feel His hand in everything you do
and be strengthened by the things he brings you through:
this is my prayer for you.

May the Son of God be Lord in all your ways;
may he Shepherd you the length in all your days,
and in your heart may He receive the praise:
this is my prayer for you.

And despite how simple it may sound,
I pray that His grace will abound
and motivate everything you do;
and may the fullness of His love be shared through you.

May His Spirit comfort you, and make you strong,
may He discipline you gently when you're wrong,
and in your heart may He give you a song:
this is my prayer for you.

May Jesus be Lord in all your ways,
may He Shepherd you the length of all your days,
and in your heart may He receive the praise:
this is my prayer for you, my prayer for you.