



# THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

## Guidelines for Episcopal Visitations

### 2022

*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Susan Brown Snook*

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

Visitations are an opportunity for your congregation to focus on its mission and ministry, and to strengthen connections with the wider Body of Christ. They are one of the great joys of episcopal ministry, and I look forward to sharing them with you and learning about your congregation and its surrounding community.

This year, I will be focusing my visitations on the theme of Revival! We will be praying for a renewal of the Holy Spirit within your congregation, helping you reach out to neighbors in your community as our churches emerge from the pandemic, and preparing for the Good News Festival with Bishop Curry, scheduled for Dec. 9-10, 2022 at the Town & Country in San Diego. Therefore, our visitations will include some special elements, including testimony, artwork, and personal prayer, that we ask you to prepare for in advance.

If the advance preparation involves some cost, you are invited to apply for a Revival Grant of \$500 by [clicking here](#). I so look forward to being with you and sharing in what the Holy Spirit is doing in your congregation!

#### **BEFORE THE VISITATION**

1. To assist in the preparation of my visit, the completed Bishop's Visitation Worksheet should be sent to my Executive Assistant at least 30 days before the visitation. It is important that specific expectations and objectives for the visit be described on the completed form. The bulletins, worksheet, and final draft of the schedule of activities for the visit should be sent to the Bishop's Executive Assistant three weeks before the visit. You may find the worksheet on our website at [www.edsd.org/bishopvisitations](http://www.edsd.org/bishopvisitations), and you can reach my assistant, Keren Mondaca, at [kmondaca@edsd.org](mailto:kmondaca@edsd.org).
2. Because this is our year of evangelism, I am asking you to hold a consultation with my Canon for Mission to prepare those that will give testimony during your primary service and those I would commission for the work of evangelism and mission at least 30 days in advance of the visitation. He can also help you think about elements you would like to include in your Visitation Revival. You can reach Canon Evans at [jevans@edsd.org](mailto:jevans@edsd.org)
3. Keren Mondaca will arrange for a phone call between your congregation's lead clergy member and me about two weeks before my visit. During this call, we can work out other details of the visitation. I would also like to hear from you about your congregation's ministries and challenges.
4. Because the Revival format will likely take more time than the usual Sunday schedule, I will not plan to meet with your vestry on Sunday. However, I am happy to attend a Vestry or Bishop's Committee meeting by Zoom around the time of the visitation. The enclosed Vestry Discussion Questionnaire contains several questions I would like your vestry or bishop's committee to discuss.
5. If required, my office will arrange overnight accommodations for me.

## DURING THE VISITATION

1. I will normally preach and preside at each of your weekend liturgies, at Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. I anticipate that all visitations will be celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. I am attaching a draft liturgy that incorporates some special elements related to the Revival format.
2. The liturgy will incorporate some prayer stations that use the senses, which should be set up in advance so they are available to people before and after the service and during the Prayers of the People. Instructions for the prayer stations are attached. In addition, I will work with your clergy or other prayer leaders to provide personal prayers during the liturgy.
3. If you are holding services online, I can preside and preach from your location or from my home.
4. On Sundays, the propers for the day from the Revised Common Lectionary should be used, unless you have received prior permission to use different scriptures. Normally the liturgical color will be that of the day. I will often wear congregational vestments, but I may bring vestments of my own.
5. Please schedule the following additional events in connection with my visit:
  - a. A meeting with candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation before the service. Please ensure that the candidates wear name tags.
  - b. A meeting with the Canon for Mission and the individual to give a testimony and those to be commissioned.
  - c. A meeting with the Canon for Mission and those responsible for prayer stations during the primary service of the visitation.
  - d. A time for teaching, if the Revival schedule allows time. My preference is for a conversational “forum” opportunity, where I may speak about church mission and other issues, and answer questions from the floor.
  - e. A time for a meeting with the Vestry or Bishop’s Committee in the days or weeks leading up to or following my visitation. During this time, I would like to hear your thoughts on the discussion questions found on the Vestry Preparation Questionnaire. If you are currently in transition between rectors/vicars, please include the search committee in this meeting.
  - f. Check the Visitation Revival Checklist for how to promote the visitation and invite others to participate
6. The Rector, Vicar, or Priest-in-Charge should make the usual congregational announcements. It is important both to include in the bulletin an announcement, and explain to the congregation verbally, that the loose offering will be designated for the Bishop’s Pastoral Needs Fund, along with any checks designated for that purpose. These funds allow me to make much-needed contributions to assist people throughout the diocese and beyond. Please keep the announcements short due to the expanded Revival format.
7. If you have congregational traditions such as birthday prayers, prayer quilt blessings, or other pastoral activities during the service, it is appropriate for parish clergy to lead those.
8. A deacon, assigned by the Archdeacon, will accompany me on many visits. If present, the deacon will serve as my chaplain and fulfill deacon’s responsibilities during the service. Please consider whether some members of your congregation may have a call to a particular ministry of service, including ordained ministry as a deacon, and give them opportunities to interact with the deacon who accompanies me.
9. During the visitation, congregational records and documents, including Church and Service Registers, should be available for inspection before the first service.

## SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS

### **Community Engagement:**

I am particularly interested in how members of your congregation are living out their baptismal ministries in response to and in partnership with others in the local and wider communities. How are you getting to know your neighbors, their needs, hopes, and longings? How are you engaged in God's mission of evangelism and service in your community? What opportunities for expanding God's mission through the Episcopal Church have you seen in your local community? How has your community changed in recent years, and how well does your congregation reflect the demographics of your neighborhood? Canon Jason Evans and I would be glad to discuss these matters with you on the telephone, and to address them with the vestry or in the adult forum.

### **Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation:**

Baptism is full membership in the body of Christ. Full preparation of sponsors (and parents of children to be baptized), as well as of the mature candidate, is essential. It is appropriate that adults be baptized (and thus confirmed in the same service) by the bishop. I encourage you to hold adult baptism for such visitation.

As with baptism, full preparation of candidates for confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation is expected. Confirmation is appropriate for those who were baptized at an early age and never made an adult affirmation of faith. Reception is appropriate for people who have made an adult affirmation of faith in another Church Communion and now wish to be a part of the Episcopal Church. Reaffirmation is for those who have been confirmed or received at an earlier time in their lives and have now undergone a spiritual transformation that makes a new beginning in faith an appropriate step in their journey.

Please schedule at least a few minutes for me to meet with any candidates before the service.

### **SCHEDULING**

The scheduling of visitations will be coordinated by the Bishop's Office, and you are encouraged to request any particularly desired dates.

### **LITURGICAL GUIDELINES**

I anticipate that all visitations will be celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. The attached draft liturgy incorporates Revival elements into the Eucharistic service.

Even if there are no baptisms, confirmations, or receptions scheduled, during the Revival Visitation format, I will invite anyone who would like to Reaffirm their Baptismal Vows to do so. Therefore, the liturgy on the day of the bishop's visitation should include the Reaffirmation section found in the attached draft liturgy (nearly identical to the Confirmation liturgy).

The Proper of the Day will be used, even when initiation rites are to take place, and normally the liturgical color will be that of the day. Any departure from this should be discussed with me before the day of the visitation. As required by the Canons, you should be using the Revised Common Lectionary unless I have given you special permission to use a different observance.

If a children's sermon is your normal practice, please inform me ahead of time, and I will prepare a children's message. If children begin the service in the nave and then are dismissed to children's chapel or Sunday school, I would like to interact with and bless the children before they depart. I am always happy to spend time with the children in the congregation in other contexts as well.

I am happy to sing as much of the liturgy as desired. I will use the solemn tone.

I will sometimes wear the vestments of the parish, although I often bring my own vestments. I will bring a plain alb, mitre, and pastoral staff. I will generally wear the chasuble for the entire liturgy, rather than changing to or from a cope, except on high festival days (Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, etc.).

I will stand for confirmations and receptions, so the bishop's chair may remain in its usual location.

I may bring a deacon with me, depending on deacon availability. The normal functions of a deacon in the liturgy include: proclaiming the gospel, bidding the Confession, setting the table, and dismissing the congregation. The details of assisting the bishop will normally also include such things as:

- holding the Prayer Book during the initiatory rites so that my hands are free
- receiving and retrieving the pastoral staff at various times during the liturgy
- assisting at baptisms.

In the absence of a deacon, those duties may be performed by parish clergy, a senior acolyte, or assisting lay minister.

If additional pastoral acts are requested, such as commissioning officers or ministers, I am more than willing to do that as part of the offertory. The brief service on pp 420-421 is often suitable.

At confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation, please have the candidates wear nametags that clearly show the candidate's name, in large, bold print. Please present the candidates in groups: first candidates for confirmation, then candidates for reception, then candidates for reaffirmation.

Chrism is not used for confirmation. In the New Testament, anointing is associated with Baptism. In the Prayer Book, the use of chrism occurs only in the baptismal liturgy, while the laying on of hands is associated with confirmation. Note that the baptism of an adult includes anointing and completes the rite, and constitutes confirmation.

If part or all of your worship service is customarily in Spanish, I will gladly preside in Spanish. I will preach in English. If an interpreter is needed for my sermon, please provide one from the congregation.

## **AFTER THE VISITATION**

Please return to the Office of the Bishop the confirmation record signed by the clergy to Registrar Alyson Terry, [aterry@edsd.org](mailto:aterry@edsd.org), or by mail. In addition, please send contributions to the Bishop's Pastoral Needs Fund. Checks should be made out to "EDSD" with "Bishop's Fund" in the memo line. Please mail checks to the following address:

The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego  
2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92107

Date

Name

Congregation

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Name,

Episcopal Visitations are one of the most important parts of my ministry with you. The visitation is an outward and visible sign of the unity of the church (local and global), and a particular opportunity to encourage, strengthen, and challenge the congregation's missional engagement in its local context as well as more globally. I am scheduled to be with you and the people of **CONGREGATION** for an Episcopal Visit on **Sunday morning, DATE**.

To assure that the visitation is a creative and constructive experience, Keren Mondaca will arrange a telephone call with you two to three weeks before the visitation. Before the phone call, I ask that you complete the worksheet found at <https://edsd.org/visitations>. I also ask you to have a discussion of the questions on the enclosed Vestry Preparation Questionnaire at the vestry or bishop's committee meeting before my visitation. When I meet with your vestry (and search committee, if you are in a clergy transition) during my visitation, I will discuss these questions with you.

In our phone conversation, we will review the details of the services, the overall schedule, and what you would like me to do when I am with you. In addition to presiding and preaching at all services, I am more than happy to give a short children's homily or do other activities upon request. I would like to lead an adult forum if possible, and to meet with candidates for baptism, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation for a few minutes before the main service. I would also like to meet with your vestry or bishop's committee (and search committee, if applicable) during my visitation. If you customarily have a worship service in Spanish, I will be happy to preside in Spanish. I will preach in English, so if Spanish interpretation is desired, please provide an interpreter from the congregation.

Finally, please remember that the canons of our diocese dictate that the loose offering that day is for the Bishop's Pastoral Needs Fund. I would ask that you note this both in your bulletins and in the spoken announcements for each service.

I look forward to meeting you and those with whom you serve.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Susan Brown Snook  
Bishop of San Diego



Episcopal Diocese of San Diego  
Bishop's Visitation Worksheet

Please complete and return to the Bishop's Office three weeks prior to visitation by mail or email, [kmondaca@edsd.org](mailto:kmondaca@edsd.org).

**Date of Visitation:** \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name:	Church Phone:
Church Location Address:	Contact Cell Phone:
Contact Person:	Email:

**Service Information**

Times	Rite I, Rite II or EOW	Eucharistic Prayer I; II; A; B; C; D; EOW 1, 2 or 3	Is the Eucharistic Prayer said or sung? <u>If sung,</u> <u>please use solemn</u>

**Color of the Day:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Revised Common Lectionary**

<b>Old Testament:</b>		<b>Psalm:</b>	
<b>New Testament:</b>		<b>Gospel:</b>	
<b>Total Baptisms:</b>			
Of those, how many are	Infant:	Youth:	Adult:
Number of Confirmations:	Number of Receptions:		Number of Reaffirmations:
If you are celebrating a non-lectionary saint's day or other feast with the bishop's prior permission, which feast or saint's day?			
Do you want the bishop to lead a children's moment?			

**Other information or requests:**

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Reminder: Canon 3.3.0 requires the undesignated plate offering on the date of the Bishop's official visit to be given to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. An announcement should be made to this effect including that checks be written and designated to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund as well.

**Vestry Preparation Questionnaire  
For Bishop Visitations  
Episcopal Diocese of San Diego**

*During my visitation, I would like to meet with your vestry or bishop's committee for forty-five minutes or so to discuss the challenges and opportunities of your ministry. If you are currently in a rector/vicar transition, please include the search committee in that meeting as well. At your last vestry or bishop's committee meeting before my visitation, I ask you to discuss the following questions so that we can be prepared to talk about them when I visit.*

1. What are the major strengths and gifts of your congregation?
2. What are the major challenges of your congregation's ministry?
3. Looking at the community beyond your doors, what groups in the area might benefit from hearing the good news of Christ through the Episcopal Church? What ideas do you have for sharing that good news with them?
  - For this conversation, use websites such as [census.gov/quickfacts](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts), [censusreporter.org](https://www.censusreporter.org), [datausa.io](https://datausa.io) or [city-data.com](https://city-data.com) to collect demographics on your community. Distribute this information to your vestry or bishop's committee.
  - Consider how your community has changed in recent years, and how well your congregation matches the demographics of your neighborhood.
  - What are important local issues in your area?
4. What are the major needs of the neighbors in your wider community? How are you currently serving your neighbors? How might you be called to serve them in the future?

## **Bishop's Visitation: Timeline & Checklist**

### 30 Days Before Visitation

#### **Prepare Leaders**

- ☐ Nominate people willing to share their faith story during the visit
- ☐ Invite members to participate in evangelism training
- ☐ Nominate people able to organize prayer stations
- ☐ Nominate people willing to offer music that uplifts the congregation
- ☐ Nominate people able to offer prayers for healing and discernment
- ☐ Nominate people with the gift of invitation
- \* Submit these names (along with email and phone) to [jevans@edsd.org](mailto:jevans@edsd.org)

#### **Pray For Visitors**

- ☐ Vestry/Bishop's Committee pray for guests
- ☐ Clergy & Staff pray for guests
- ☐ During Sunday worship pray for guests
- ☐ Encourage members to pray for guests

#### **Start Inviting Others**

- ☐ Print material for members to invite
  - ☐ Address/location
  - ☐ Service times
  - ☐ COVID-19 protocols
  - ☐ Website
  - ☐ Phone/Email
- ☐ Intentionally invite ...
  - ☐ Parish school parents, children, faculty, and staff
  - ☐ Clients of your outreach ministries
  - ☐ Those that participate in your missional communities
  - ☐ Community partners and neighbors

#### **Update Web Presence**

- ☐ Update website and social media
  - ☐ Address/location
  - ☐ Service times
  - ☐ COVID-19 protocols
  - ☐ Phone/Email
- ☐ Create social media posts/events and share

### Two Weeks Before Visitation

#### **Submit Those to Be Commissioned for Mission, Service & Evangelism**

- ☐ Send names of those to be commissioned to Bishop's office

#### **Be Prepared to Welcome Guests**

- ☐ Brief ushers and greeters
- ☐ Prepare regular attendees
- ☐ Clear signage
- ☐ Clean bathrooms
- ☐ Safe space for children and parents

#### **Attendee Follow Up**

- ☐ Guestbook or guest cards ready
  - ☐ Name
  - ☐ Mailing address
  - ☐ Email/Phone
- ☐ Make request for contact info during announcements
- ☐ Schedule follow up within two weeks





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## Prayer Stations: A Guide

Prayer stations are 5-10 minute prayer activities that can be set up and used anywhere in your worship space for participants to use before or during the Bishop's visitation—though, you are welcome to set these up in the weeks prior to the visit. These are typically interactive, inviting the praying person to read/listen/reflect and then respond to God's voice. They involve more than just our mind, engaging our body and our emotions as well. What follows are directions on how to use several different prayer stations. You are welcome to use a some of these, all of these or come up with your own. Some helpful considerations on prayer stations [here](#). Signs for each of those that follow are available in a corresponding document.

### Organizer Instructions:

- Gather the supplies needed
- Print prayer station scripture and reflection for each station
- Set-up and create your stations in one area or throughout your worship space

### Station #1 - Personal Revival

Supplies Needed: Prayer flags (cut up pieces of fabric), markers, ribbon, and clothespins

#### Scripture:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" – Isaiah 6:8

#### Reflection:

Reflect on the personal revival commitment God is calling you to. Is it for yourself, others, the church? Write this as a prayer on a prayer flag. When finished, bring your flag before the Bishop for prayer for personal revival.

Before the conclusion of worship, the prayer flags will be placed on a string with clothespins, process out at the end of the service with the Bishop and be hung in the sunniest part of the church so that God's light and breath may shine and blow through our prayers.

### Station #2 - Praying for Others

Supplies Needed: Skittle sweets – two small packs per bag and a small paper or plastic plate.

#### Scripture:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." – Luke 10:2

#### Reflection:

Have you been praying for someone or some situation for a long time? The Skittle sweets have five colors. Each one represents a person you are praying for. Place the Skittles around the inside of the plate so that the colors are varied, and each skittle touches the next one. Pour a little hot water into the middle and wait. As the rainbow of color appears thank God for his faithfulness to you and repeat your prayers for the people you are praying for.

### **Station #3 - Forgiveness**

Supplies Needed: A large bowl or dish filled with sand

Scripture:

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Colossians 3: 12-14

Reflection:

There are times when we need to be forgiven, and God forgives us. There are times when we need to forgive, and God gives us the strength to forgive. How will we respond: By a prayer of thanksgiving? By promising never to do it again? By praying for the person we have forgiven?

Is there something you wish to bring to God to ask forgiveness? Write or draw it in the sand. Ask forgiveness. Then pass your hand through the sand, obliterating the words or images as a symbol of receiving God's forgiveness.

Is there someone you should forgive? Write or draw in the sand. Ask God for the strength to forgive. Smooth the sand. Now, what will be your response to God's forgiveness working through you? Write or draw your response in the sand and leave it for the next visitor to see.

### **Station #4 - Your Kingdom Come**

Supplies Needed: Large map of your ministry area, as well as headlines for current events/news

Scripture:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one. – Matthew 6:9-13

Reflection:

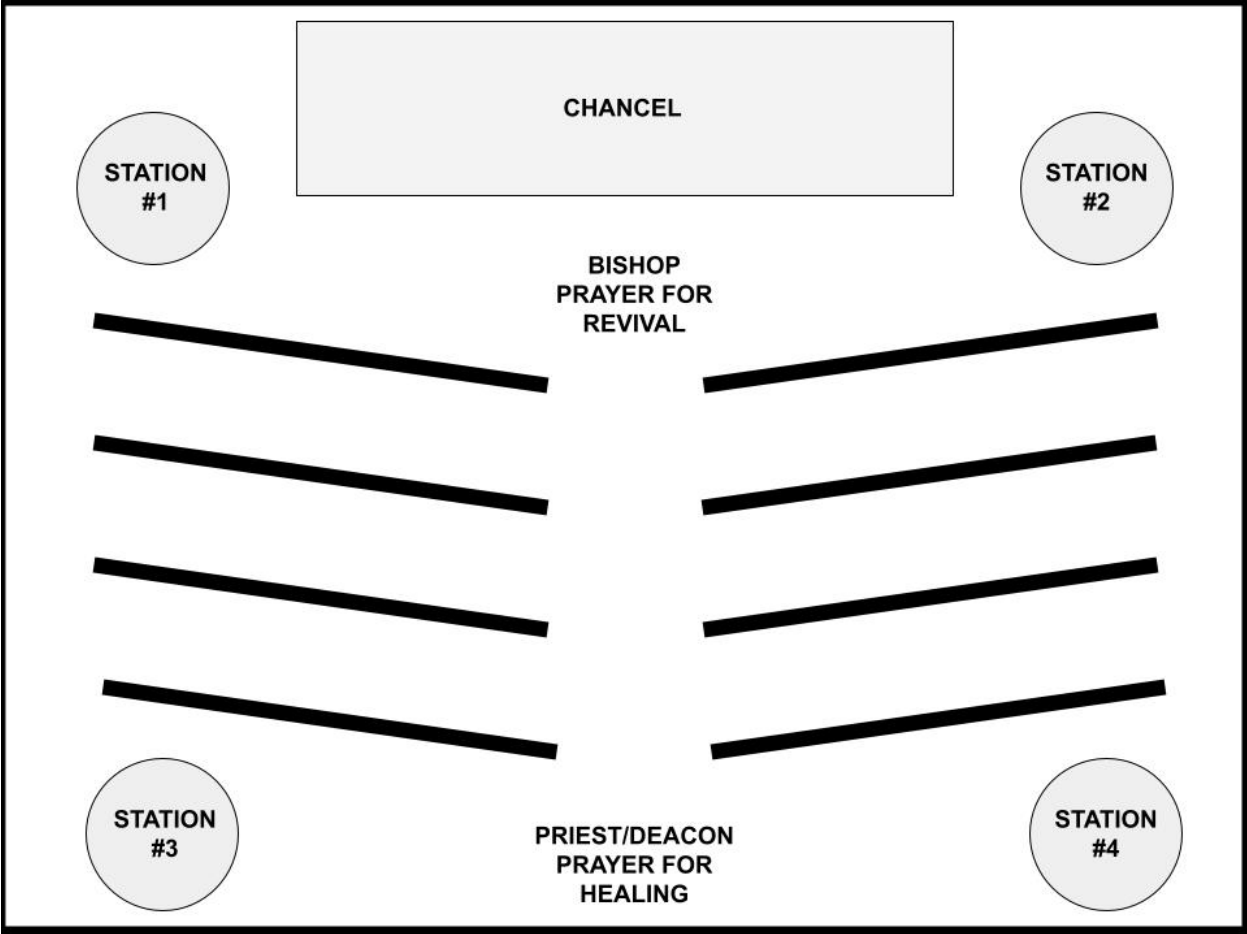
Look at the map and headlines. Pray “Your kingdom come, your will be done” over the places and situations that stand out to you. If you are unsure how to pray, a good place to begin is for the positive – healing, reconciliation, justice, love, forgiveness, salvation.

### **Prayers For Healing**

Invite your clergy to stand near the back of the nave to be available for prayers of healing.

### **Station Layout**

Here is a general template for recommended layout of your stations. You will need 2-4 small tables for your stations. Dress these tables according to the aesthetics of your worship space.





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# PRAY FOR REVIVAL

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” – Isaiah 6:8

## Reflection:

Reflect on the personal revival commitment God is calling you to. Is it for yourself, others, the church? Write this as a prayer on a prayer flag. When finished, bring your flag before the Bishop for prayer for personal revival.

Before the conclusion of worship, the prayer flags will be placed on a string with clothespins, process out at the end of the service with the Bishop and be hung in the sunniest part of the church so that God’s light and breath may shine and blow through our prayers.



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# PRAY FOR OTHERS

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” – Luke 10:2

## Reflection:

Have you been praying for someone or some situation for a long time? The Skittle sweets have five colors. Each one represents a person you are praying for. Place the Skittles around the inside of the plate so that the colors are varied, and each skittle touches the next one. Pour a little hot water into the middle and wait. As the rainbow of color appears thank God for his faithfulness to you and repeat your prayers for the people you are praying for.



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# PRAY FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM COME

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one. – Matthew 6:9-13

## Reflection:

Look at the map and headlines. Pray “Your kingdom come, your will be done” over the places and situations that stand out to you. If you are unsure how to pray, a good place to begin is for the positive – healing, reconciliation, justice, love, forgiveness, salvation.



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# PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Colossians 3: 12-14

## Reflection:

There are times when we need to be forgiven, and God forgives us. There are times when we need to forgive, and God gives us the strength to forgive. How will we respond: By a prayer of thanksgiving? By promising never to do it again? By praying for the person we have forgiven?

Is there something you wish to bring to God to ask forgiveness? Write or draw it in the sand. Ask forgiveness. Then pass your hand through the sand, obliterating the words or images as a symbol of receiving God's forgiveness.

Is there someone you should forgive? Write or draw in the sand. Ask God for the strength to forgive. Smooth the sand. Now, what will be your response to God's forgiveness working through you? Write or draw your response in the sand and leave it for the next visitor to see.



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## Testimony: Sharing Your Story

*“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” - Mark 16:15*

Giving your “testimony” means sharing the story of Jesus’s good news in your life. Christians throughout history have believed that God changes lives. The word “metanoia” is used in Scripture to mean a complete change of mind, heart, or way of life in response to what God has done. This is sometimes a story of sudden transformation in your life but can also be a story stretched over a longer period. You are being invited to share your testimony during the bishop’s visitation so that others may hear of the life-transforming work Jesus continues to do in the lives of those that follow Him. Here are four suggestions from the Presiding Bishop’s office for you as you prepare your testimony<sup>1</sup>:

1. **Keep it real.** Tell your story in your words. Don’t use someone else’s.
2. **Pause and listen to your own life.** What’s happening? What is God doing in your life? How is your life enriched by your relationship with Jesus?
3. **Focus on God and your experience of God in Christ.** If it’s an experience at church, talk about where and how you encountered God, not just what’s good about your church. If it’s an experience in nature or some other holy place, share how you knew God was there.
4. **Do you recognize Jesus in the story?** Scripture tells us the signs of his presence: unconditional love, resurrection, perseverance, healing, teaching, community, sacrifice, redemption, etc. Where is Jesus in your story?

Your story should also be brief, positive, and personal. Here are three more suggestions from This I Believe, Inc. in preparing your spiritual story<sup>2</sup>:

1. **Be brief:** Your statement should be between 500 and 600 words. That’s about three minutes when read aloud at your natural pace.
2. **Be positive:** Please avoid preaching, editorializing, or offering an opinion on a social issue. Tell us what you do believe, not what you don’t believe.
3. **Be personal:** Make your essay about you; speak in the first person. Avoid speaking in the editorial “we.” Write in words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak. We recommend you read your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.

Keep it rooted in Jesus and be yourself. Your story is an irrefutable demonstration of what God is doing in the world. That is good news! Thank you for your sharing your story!

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<sup>1</sup> Spellers, The Rev. Canon Stephanie, et al. *Episcopal Evangelism 101*, The Episcopal Church, New York, NY, 2018, 10.

<sup>2</sup> Allison, Jay, et al. *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*, Moline Public Library, Moline, IL, 2009, 273.



Revival!  
Baptism, Confirmation, Reception  
Holy Eucharist

# The Word of God

*Responses are indicated in bold.*

*Celebrant*            Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People*                And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*Or in place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

*Celebrant*            Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People*                The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Or in Lent and on other penitential occasions*

*Celebrant*            Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People*                His mercy endures forever.

*The Bishop then continues*

                              There is one Body and one Spirit;  
*People*                There is one hope in God's call to us;  
*Bishop*                One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
*People*                One God and Father of all.

## The Charge

Today, we gather in the name of Jesus and we reflect on how we as the baptized are called, fed, and sent. As children of God, we are ever mindful of our calling to live out our faith in daily life, to celebrate the love and forgiveness that comes to us through being fed with the bread and wine; and to share that love and forgiveness with our neighbors. We come asking God to revive us in the power of the Holy Spirit and to send us out from this place to reflect the light of Christ with joy and hope. Amen.

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people*

                              The Lord be with you.  
*People*                And also with you.  
*Celebrant*            Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

*People*                Amen.

## The Lessons

*The people sit. One Lesson, as appointed, is read, the reader first saying:*  
A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_

*A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.*

*After the Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.  
People          Thanks be to God.

*A testimony follows the Reading, in place of the Psalm.*

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

                    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_\_.  
People          Glory to you, Lord Christ.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

                    The Gospel of the Lord.  
People          Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Quiet background music is appropriate.*

Loving God, Author of life, in You we live and move and have our being. We ask that you revive us again in your mighty Spirit as we prepare our hearts for The Good News Festival.

Inspire us to reach out to those who do not know you, and welcome them with open arms, without judgement, so that all may embrace your Good News, answer your call, and dance together with joy.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*After the prayers are completed, prayer stations are offered for optional use. Hands-on prayer station activities may be available during this time, as well as before and after the service. Please see the attachment for ideas for optional hands-on prayer stations that may be offered. In addition, the Bishop will offer prayers for the renewal of the Spirit in the individual, and the priest-in-charge or other clergy or lay leaders are encouraged to offer healing prayers, optionally assisted by members of healing ministries.*

*Appropriate hymns for healing prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit can be sung while the individual prayers are offered. (WLP Heal me, hands of Jesus; H1982 Breathe on me, Breath of God, etc.)*

*The Bishop offers a concluding Collect:*

Let us pray.

Loving God, we celebrate today your gift of the Holy Spirit, and we ask you to revive the Spirit's power in us. Please give us opportunities to witness to the strength, support, love, care, forgiveness, and peace we receive from our faith in Jesus Christ. As we lift up our challenges, our struggles, and our burdens to our Savior, Jesus Christ, we ask for renewed determination to share that light of Christ with others. Amen.

## **Presentation and Examination of the Candidates**

*Please note that even if the congregation has not prepared candidates for confirmation or reception, the Bishop will invite all present to engage in the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.*

*If there are baptisms, the section in blue should be included.*

*The Celebrant says*

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

### Adults and Older Children

*The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows*

**Sponsor** I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented*

**Candidate** Do you desire to be baptized?  
I do.

### Infants and Younger Children

*Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows*  
*Parents and Godparents*

I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents*

I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant*

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*

I will, with God's help.

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children*

**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.

*The Bishop says*

The (other) Candidate(s) will now be presented.

*Presenters* I present these persons for Confirmation.

*or* I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

*or* I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

*The Bishop asks the candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate* I do.

*Bishop*

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate*

I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* We will.

*The Bishop then says these or similar words*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

*During the Baptismal Covenant, the Priest or other Clergy may asperge the congregation.*

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

*Bishop* 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.

*Bishop* 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.

*Bishop* 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.

*Bishop* 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.

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

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop* 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.

*If there is to be a Baptism, the portion of the service in blue follows.*

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth [and for those  
(this person) who have renewed their commitment to Christ.]

*A Person appointed leads the following petitions*

*Leader* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.  
*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*A period of silence follows.*

*The Celebrant says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

### **Thanksgiving over the Water**

*The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying*

*People* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Celebrant*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Consecration of the Chrism [only used if the congregation does not have sufficient Chrism]**

*The Bishop may then consecrate oil of Chrism, placing a hand on the vessel of oil, and saying*

Eternal Father, whose blessed Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Savior and servant of all, we pray you to consecrate this oil, that those who are sealed with it may share in the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Baptism**

*Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying*

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one*

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

*Or this action may be done immediately after the administration of the water and before the preceding prayer.*

*When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People*

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

*The service continues with Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation.*



## Prayers for the Candidates

*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*A period of silence follows.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## For Confirmation

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant N. with your Holy Spirit; empower *him/her* for your service; and sustain him all the days of *his/her* life. Amen.

*or this*

Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that *she/he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *she/he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

## For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

## For Reaffirmation

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Peace is then exchanged*

## The Peace

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

*People*                      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Any form authorized by this Church in the Book of Common Prayer or Enriching Our Worship may be used. It is suggested that one of the shorter forms be used, since the service will be longer than usual on this day.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Or the following*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Commissioning Prayer**

*The Bishop says*

As part of God's Church, the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement in the Diocese of San Diego, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim in languages that the world will know and understand.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

*People* By the Spirit's power, we will.

*Bishop* Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

*People* By the Spirit's power, we will.

*Bishop* Will you dare to share your riches with others and minister to God's children in need?

*People* By the Spirit's power, we will.

*Bishop* Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts are attuned to the longings of God?

*People* By the Spirit's power, we will.

*Bishop* Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

*People* By the Spirit's power, we will.

## **The Blessing**

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire on the day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or this*

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or this*

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or this*

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*From the Easter Vigil through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to any of the dismissals.*

*The People respond* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.