

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Barnstable Confirmation & Reception Workbook

Learning the Book of Common Prayer

Student Name _____

Sponsor _____

Confirmation Date _____

Rector

The Rev. Michael Horvath

How to use this workbook

- Bring your 1979 Book of Common Prayer to each session.
- You do not need perfect answers. The goal is to learn how to find things, ask questions, and notice what the Church prays.
- Some questions are lookup questions and some are reflection questions. Reflection questions do not have one correct answer.

What's inside

- Session 1 - Finding Your Way in the Prayer Book
- Session 2 - Baptism and the Baptismal Covenant
- Session 3 - The Catechism: God, Church, and Prayer
- Session 4 - The Catechism: Sacraments and Christian Life
- Session 5 - The Holy Eucharist
- Session 6 - Ministry and the Church's Leaders
- Session 7 - Confirmation
- My Faith Story pages
- Questions I Still Have
- Confirmation Vows page

Tip: The page numbers in this booklet match the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

Session 1

Finding Your Way in the Prayer Book

The Prayer Book is the Church's worship book. Today is about learning where things are and getting comfortable flipping through it.

Today's goal

Find key sections quickly and notice how the book is organized.

1. What page does Morning Prayer begin on?

Answer: _____

2. What page does the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two begin on?

Answer: _____

3. What page does the Catechism begin on?

Answer: _____

4. What page does Holy Baptism begin on?

Answer: _____

5. What page does Confirmation begin on?

Answer: _____

6. What page is the Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families?

Answer: _____

7. What page does the Psalter begin on?

Answer: _____

8. What page does the Calendar of the Church Year begin on?

Answer: _____

Think about it

What part of church do you already know well?

What part of the Prayer Book feels confusing so far?

What do you notice about how often Episcopalians pray together with the same words?

Session 2

Baptism and the Baptismal Covenant

In the Episcopal Church, baptism is the way we are welcomed into Christ's Body, the Church. Confirmation builds on baptism; it does not replace it.

Today's goal

See what baptism says, what promises are made, and why those promises matter.

1. What page is the Baptismal Covenant?

Write: _____

2. In the Baptismal Covenant, what do we promise to continue in? (BCP p. 304)

Write: _____

3. In the Baptismal Covenant, what do we promise to resist? (BCP p. 304)

Write: _____

4. In the Baptismal Covenant, what do we promise to seek and serve in all persons? (BCP p. 305)

Write: _____

5. In the Baptismal Covenant, what do we promise to strive for? (BCP p. 305)

Write: _____

6. In the Catechism, what is Holy Baptism? (BCP p. 858)

Write: _____

7. According to the Catechism, what are the two main parts of the sacrament of Baptism? (BCP p. 858)

Write: _____

Your response

Which baptism promise feels easiest for you right now?

Which baptism promise feels hardest for you right now?

Why do you think baptism uses water?

Session 3

The Catechism: God, Church, and Prayer

The Catechism is a teaching section in the Prayer Book. It gives short answers to big questions.

Today's goal

Practice reading short church answers and then putting them into your own words.

1. What is the Church? *(BCP p. 854)*

Answer: _____

2. Who are the ministers of the Church? *(BCP p. 855)*

Answer: _____

3. What is prayer? *(BCP p. 856)*

Answer: _____

4. What is Christian hope? *(BCP p. 862)*

Answer: _____

5. Who is the Holy Spirit? *(BCP p. 852)*

Answer: _____

6. Write the Catechism's answer to 'What is prayer?' in your own words. *(BCP p. 856)*

Answer: _____

Pause and reflect

Which Catechism answer makes the most sense to you?

Which answer raises more questions for you?

What is one thing you want God to help you understand better?

Session 4

The Catechism: Sacraments and Christian Life

This session focuses on how Episcopalians talk about sacraments, sin, forgiveness, and new life.

Today's goal

Learn the Church's words for grace, sacraments, and Christian life.

1. What is a sacrament? *(BCP p. 857)*

Answer: _____

2. What are the two great sacraments of the Gospel? *(BCP p. 858)*

Answer: _____

3. What is the Eucharist? *(BCP p. 859)*

Answer: _____

4. What is sin? *(BCP p. 848)*

Answer: _____

5. What is the forgiveness of sins? *(BCP p. 850)*

Answer: _____

6. What is the mission of the Church? *(BCP p. 855)*

Answer: _____

7. According to the Prayer Book, what do Baptism and Eucharist have in common?

Answer: _____

Make it real

Where do you see grace in your life right now?

When you hear the word 'sin,' what do you think it means?

What helps you start again after you mess up?

Session 5

The Holy Eucharist

The Eucharist is the Church's main act of worship on Sunday. This session helps you follow the service and understand a few big moments.

Today's goal

Find the key parts of the Eucharist Rite Two (p. 355) and think about why they matter.

1. What page does the Nicene Creed appear on in Rite Two?

Answer: _____

2. What page is the Confession of Sin in Rite Two?

Answer: _____

3. What page does the Peace appear on?

Answer: _____

4. What page is the Lord's Prayer in Rite Two?

Answer: _____

5. Name one Eucharistic Prayer in Rite Two and give its page number.

Answer: _____

6. What does the Catechism say the inward and spiritual grace in the Eucharist is? (BCP p. 859)

Answer: _____

7. Why do you think the Peace comes before Communion?

Answer: _____

When you worship

Which part of the Eucharist stands out to you most and why?

What do you think Communion says about belonging?

What words from Sunday worship have stayed with you lately?

Session 6

Ministry and the Church's Leaders

In the Episcopal Church, ministry is not just for clergy. All baptized people share in Christ's work.

Today's goal

Understand bishops, priests, deacons, and lay people - and where you fit.

1. According to the Catechism, who are the ministers of the Church? *(BCP p. 855)*

Answer: _____

2. What is the ministry of lay persons? *(BCP p. 855)*

Answer: _____

3. What is the ministry of a bishop? *(BCP p. 855)*

Answer: _____

4. What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter? *(BCP p. 856)*

Answer: _____

5. What is the ministry of a deacon? *(BCP p. 856)*

Answer: _____

6. Name one way a young person can serve in the Church now.

Answer: _____

Your gifts

What are you good at that could bless other people?

When have you felt useful or needed in church?

What kind of service sounds meaningful to you: helping, welcoming, praying, singing, leading, or something else?

Session 7

Confirmation

Confirmation is a chance to renew your baptismal promises publicly and receive the bishop's prayer and laying on of hands.

Today's goal

Look closely at the confirmation rite and think about your own 'yes' to God.

1. What page does the Confirmation rite begin on? (BCP p. 413)

Answer: _____

2. At Confirmation, what are people asked to renew? (BCP p. 412-413)

Answer: _____

3. Who lays hands on the person being confirmed? (BCP p. 418)

Answer: _____

4. What does the bishop pray for in the confirmation prayer? Name one phrase. (BCP p. 418)

Answer: _____

5. What is one reason someone might choose to be confirmed?

Answer: _____

Getting ready

Why do you want to be confirmed?

What do you believe about God right now?

What kind of Christian do you hope to become?



My Faith Story

These pages are for your own words. You do not need to sound super religious. Just be honest.

Page 1

What has church been like for you so far?

Who has helped shape your faith?

What questions have you carried about God?

Page 2

When do you feel close to God?

When do you feel far away from God?

What do you hope confirmation will change - or strengthen - in you?

Questions I Still Have

Question:

What I think so far:

–

Question:

What I think so far:

–

Question:

What I think so far:

–

Question:

What I think so far:

–

Question:

What I think so far:

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Question:

What I think so far:

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Question:

What I think so far:

–

Question:

What I think so far:

-

Confirmation Vows Page

Before the bishop, those being confirmed renew their baptismal promises. Use this page to prepare.

. The promise from the Baptismal Covenant I most want to live by is:

My response: _____

. One way I want to follow Jesus more honestly is:

My response: _____

. One thing I want the Holy Spirit to strengthen in me is:

My response: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____