





The Diocese of Nova Scotia
and Prince Edward Island

Reimagining
Church







1

Opening Prayer

Jesus Christ, thank you for coming to our world to be our Lord and our Servant, to live and die and rise again for us.
Help us, as we seek to be your disciples, to learn what that means for our lives, and for the churches we belong to.
And give us power and courage then to follow you. We pray in your name, Amen.

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2

What is the Gospel?

**The Creator has not given up on our world,
but is at work to renew the world
and put everything to rights.**

**The heart of God's work in the world
is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

This is the missio dei - the mission of God.

3

Homework . . .

Think of someone who has no church connection.

- If they came in to your faith community as it presently is, what would they like?
- What would be weird or difficult?
- Describe a church that they would want to attend.



4

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, **proclaiming the good news of God**. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe **the good news!**"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

- Mark 1:14-20



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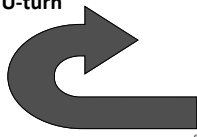
"Repent" = to change your mind

"Believe" = to give your allegiance to something

So then:


1. You turn away from one thing, then you...
2. Turn towards something else


In other words, you've made a 180 degree U-turn



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The commitment of baptism





John Sentamu
Archbishop of York

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Baptismal Promises

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour? ***I do.***

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and mercy?
I do.

Do you promise to obey him as your Lord? ***I do.***

REPENTANCE



BELIEF

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What is a Christian?

- **Most common word in New Testament: "disciple"**
- **What is a disciple?**
 - A follower, a learner, a student
 - An apprentice

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Jesus Trains His Apprentices

When the crowds found out and followed him, he welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here." He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Luke 9:11-17

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For Discussion

- Make a list of the things that Jesus does in the passage we read.
- List the things the disciples do.
- What do you think Jesus wanted to teach them through this experience?
- What do you think they learned through this experience?
- How have you been helped to be a disciple of Jesus?

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Five things that enable us to grow as disciples

- Community
- Worship & Prayer
- Scripture
- Responsive Choices
- The Holy Spirit

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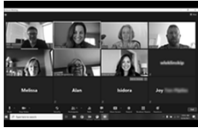
1. Community



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2. Worship and prayer



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Prayer can be . . .

- alone or with others
- at set times or spontaneous
- using printed prayers or made-up prayers

How we do it is secondary:

that we do it is crucial!

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How prayer helps our discipleship:

- All relationships are strengthened by free and open conversation
- Prayer invites our Teacher to act in the situations of our lives
- Prayer is a way of listening to our Teacher



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Eucharist and mission



... It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things *(Act 1)* ...

When we turned away from you in sin *(Act 2)*, you did not cease to care for us but opened a path of salvation for all people.

You made a covenant with your people Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations *(Act 3)*.

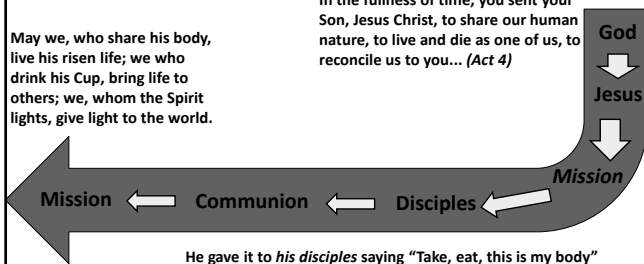
Eucharistic Prayer 1
The Book of Alternative Services

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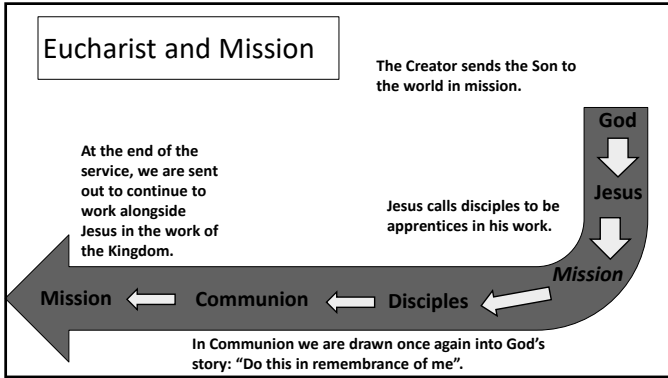
Eucharist and Mission

May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we who drink his Cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

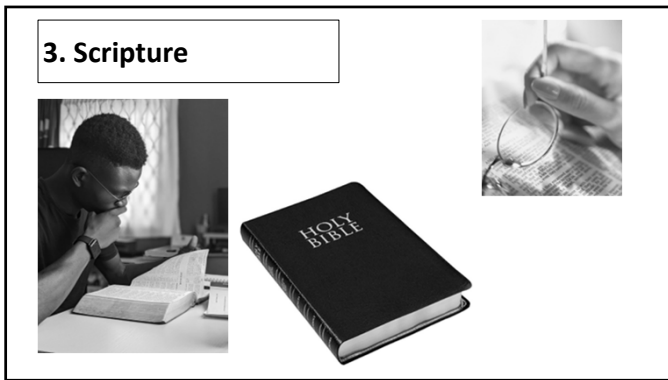
In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you... *(Act 4)*



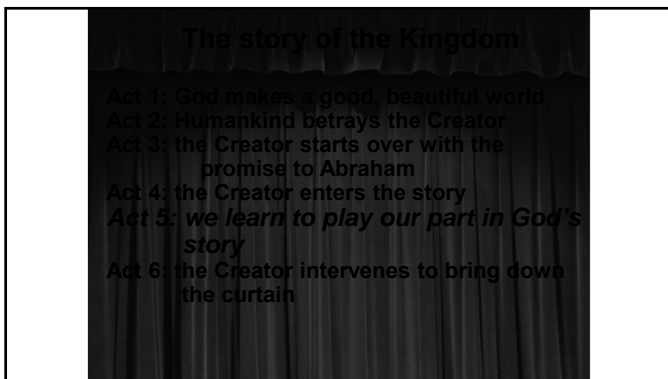
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4. Responsive choices

A black and white line drawing of a man and a woman in aprons cooking together. The man is on the left, looking at the woman on the right, who is stirring a pot on a stove.

"Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I tell you?"
- Luke 6:46

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5. The Holy Spirit

It's no good giving me a play like Hamlet or King Lear and telling me to write a play like that. Shakespeare could do it; I can't. And it is no good showing me a life like the life of Jesus and telling me to live a life like that. Jesus could do it; I can't. But if the genius of Shakespeare could come and live in me, then I could write plays like his. And if the Spirit of Jesus could come and live in me, then I could live a life like his.

A black and white portrait of Archbishop William Temple, a man with glasses and a clerical collar.

Archbishop William Temple

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The Holy Spirit

- **Creates community**
- **Makes Jesus real in worship and prayer**
- **Helps us understand how to live in the story of the Bible**
- **Gives us strength and creativity to do what Jesus asks of us**

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Pause for reflection

Where are we at in our discipleship?

- Is “discipleship” a new idea for you?
- Are we seeking to be faithful apprentices?
- Do you feel enthusiastic about it? Nervous? Curious?
- Are we part-time apprentices who should be full-time?


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The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28.16-20

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Images of evangelism— positive and negative



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What is Evangelism?

- ❖co-operating with the Holy Spirit
 - ❖to help people
 - ❖take steps towards
 - ❖being apprentices of Jesus.

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What is Evangelism?

- THE REAL EVANGELIST
 - co-operating with *the Holy Spirit*
- THE CHURCH’S ROLE
 - to *help* people
- THE HOW
 - take *steps* towards
- THE GOAL
 - being *apprentices of Jesus*



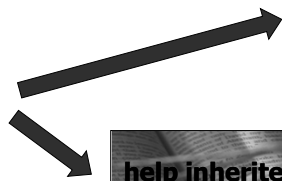
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Ways the church can help

- *Be a welcoming community*
- *Talk about our own experiences*
- *Offer Christianity 101 –type courses*
- *Lend a book, recommend a website*
- *Pray for people, pray with people*

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the mixed economy church



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Destination Church

A Christian Reform church plant in
St. Thomas, Ontario
<https://www.destinationchurch.ca/>






What did you like about the video?
What questions does it leave you
with?

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Time for Reflection – The Examen

When was I encouraged, or touched, or joyful?
What might God be saying?
How might I respond?

When was I troubled, or sad, or angry?
What might God be saying?
How might I respond?



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The Doxology

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Next week...

Changing World, Changing Church

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