

Hey there, St. George's! Your Associate Rector here, Will Dickinson, inviting you into a special season. When Joe and I first learned that the bishop was coming on March 10, we were excited for our usual pattern: sponsoring a few folks to be confirmed or received into the Church and maybe a few to reaffirm their Baptismal Vows. But the longer we thought about it, we wondered, why not think bigger? Why not use this as an opportunity for the whole parish to walk through this journey of preparation together?

So this Sunday we're kicking off a parish-wide formation series called the *Baptismal Covenant: How to Live a Jesus-Centered Life*. Meeting in person every Sunday at 10 am, this series is for everyone, young and old, brand new to the church and seasoned Episcopalian, because the Baptismal Covenant always has more to learn for everyone.

These promises we make at baptism and reaffirm at confirmation are about what it means to live a life of faith and transformation, in ourselves and in the world around us. We reaffirm them many times during the year and, if you let them, they can change your life. We want this to be a journey everyone can join, so if you can't make it to 10 am, we'll have recordings and discussion groups available so everyone can participate.

If you haven't yet been baptized and are waiting to take the plunge, this is your sign! If you've been baptized but not yet confirmed, or if you've been confirmed in another church but haven't been received into the

Episcopal Church, this is *your* sign! If you *have*, even if it was just last year, this is your sign to reaffirm those vows and commitments together with the whole church.

Maybe you're not sure, or don't know what category is for you. That's alright! Joe and I are happy to sit down and talk it through, and we only ask to know of plans for confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation by March 1. Find a schedule linked in the description of this video, along with how to let us know you're interested in one of those sacraments: baptism, confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation.

This message is an invitation, but it is also an expectation! We are all walking this journey of faith together at St. George's, and though we each have different backgrounds and journeys, we all come together around this covenant. We are all walking through the same hard world, and your clergy want all of us to reaffirm our belief in those simple, challenging promises.

This season is about the God we believe in, yes, but it's much more about *how* we believe in God and *how* we live it out. We want every single person in the parish to reaffirm these promises together when the bishop comes on March 10.

What are those promises and what do they mean for our lives? Well I'll tell you...starting this Sunday at 10.