

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

LIVING REVIVAL

An Episcopal Revival Follow-Up Resource for Small Groups and Congregations



Living Revival: An Episcopal Revival Follow-Up Resource for Small Groups and Congregations

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Learn more about revival and The Episcopal Church at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-revivals/>. Share reflections and queries by writing to evangelism@episcopalchurch.org or on social media using #episcopalrevival.

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Living Revival

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Introduction

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful that you and your congregation have been taking part in the revival journey. You are answering the call to become a church that looks and acts like Jesus. That is good news for a world in sore need of it.

You've spent a significant amount of time praying, planning, and putting together many meetings, agendas, and to-do lists. We'd like to invite you to a time of reflection, as individuals and as a small group. You've been doing life-changing and life-giving work and opened to God in new ways, and it's worth taking a look at what you've done and where you feel Jesus is calling you next.

We've arranged this resource into four sessions, but you can feel free to lengthen them out to as many as you and your group need to process your revival journey. We've attempted to structure these sessions so they can be enjoyed together in person or together virtually or in a hybrid situation. Additionally, we've included a section for links and resource recommendations we think will be particularly valuable as you take your next steps.

We look forward to hearing your stories! Share them with us via social media using [#episcopalrevival](#) or [#episcopalevangelism](#) or email us at evangelism@episcopalchurch.org.

Peace be with you,

The Rev. Stephanie Spellers
*Canon to the Presiding Bishop
for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation Care*

Leading Living Revival

What to Expect

Before You Begin

If this is your first small group experience or your first time as a small group leader, we recommend reviewing the resources found at www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/building-intentional-small-groups. Start with the [Building an Intentional Small Group Ministry](#) guide, which informs and expands on this facilitator guide with helpful topics like Small Group Ministry Roles, How to Form Groups, Setting a Timeline, Choosing Location, Creating Group Norms, and more.

Creating Your Small Groups

We recommend that your small groups be at least six people and no more than twelve people. However, if you need to gather a group larger than twelve, please make sure that participants are broken into smaller working groups for the Mixed Media Response (optional) and the Re-engaging/ Reimagining portions. Also, if you are meeting as a larger group, please ask participants to join the same working group each week. This will provide continuity and the opportunity for deep relationships to form.

Who can lead a Living Revival group?

Anyone actively participating in your diocese or congregation's revival process can lead this small group. Again, if this is the first time a leader facilitates a group, please consider reviewing the links in the Before You Begin section. We hope leaders will commit at least 30 minutes of preparation time per session and sourcing the optional Mixed Media Response.

How long should a Living Revival session last?

Including the Mixed Media Response, each Living Revival session will last approximately 90 minutes. You may also choose to omit the break section or move it to a time that more closely fits your context.

Where should we host Living Revival sessions?

Please be sure to host your Living Revival sessions in a space appropriate for your group size. We encourage you to host them in the same room as your other Revival discernment and planning meetings have occurred. Be sure that your space is accessible and that you provide clear directions or signage for group members to follow.

What supplies or tools will I need?

For groups wishing to participate in the Mixed Media Response, you will need the following items:

Week 1

- 1 large stack of magazines
- Two sheets of cardstock for each participant
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

Week 2

- Several sheets of colored beeswax for rolling candles
- Wick material
- Dried flowers
- Two or three essential oil options

Week 3

- Modeling clay, Play-Doh, magic sand, or other similar substance for each participant

Week 4

- Video setup: laptop, monitor/projection screen, Wi-Fi connection

No additional supplies are needed if you choose to omit the Mixed Media Response. Please feel free to substitute *Lectio Divina* or the Ignatian Examen for the Mixed Media Response if this fits your group in a more personal or engaging way.

Other supplies:

Session 2: 8½-by-11 cardstock and markers

Session 3: Copies of the Book of Common Prayer

What is the flow of a typical session?

Opening/Closing Prayer (3-5 minutes)

Poet Mary Oliver has this to say about prayer:

*It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch*

a few words together, and don't try

*to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway*

*into thanks and a silence in which
another voice may speak.*

You can use any of the prayers we have provided. We've selected several prayers from the Book of Common Prayer that we hope you will feel free to use.

You can use a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, A Prayerbook for New Zealand (New Zealand Prayer Book), or your favorite source for prayers.

God delights in your prayer and wants to hear from you, so you can use your own words to offer praise, thanksgiving, intercession (prayer for others), requests for help, and forgiveness. God hears all our prayers.

Poems, songs, and psalms are also prayers. Offer a song or poem and invite the group to share a response.

You can also ask one of the group participants to share a portion of the session's Scripture reading as part of your prayer time.

Scripture Reading (5-7 minutes)

Drawing on the Gospels and the Book of Isaiah (New Revised Standard Version), we will open our eyes to fresh expressions of our mission and ministry.

These stories are some of the most familiar to us. So, we'll be spending a considerable amount of time talking and sharing about how they can continue to feed us as we live into our ministries and move further into Living Revival.

Anyone willing to read the Scripture for each session is welcome to do so. The readings can be a smidge on the meaty side, so you may want to have more than one reader per session. We hope you will read the Scripture selections aloud, but we know that time and comfort may be a factor for your group. Should your group choose to read silently, please allow plenty of time for each person to finish reading.

Mixed Media Response (optional) (15-20 minutes)

This is an entirely optional portion of the Living Revival sessions. Rather than an art project, we hope groups will think of the Mixed Media Responses as ways to get their hands busy so their hearts and minds can do deeper work.

Each activity is straightforward to lead and very simple to participate in. Instructions and a supply list are provided for each session. As groups engage in these responses, we imagine conversations bubbling up and adding to the experience.

If your group would be better served by using a more traditional form of meditation and Scriptural reflection, we encourage you to use it.

We are especially fond of Lectio Divina (<https://www.conceptionabbey.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/lectio-divina-card.pdf>)

and the Ignatian Examen (<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-examen/>).

If your community needs to trim some time off sessions, please feel free to omit this section entirely.

Break (15 minutes)

For groups using the Mixed Media Response section, this is a natural place in the session to stretch and move and maybe to chat with folks across the table or the room. We also want to include unstructured time for group participants to visit and enjoy fellowship. This is a way to revive our spirits and relationships during these sessions. You may also choose to omit this step or move it to the end of the session. Please double-check any food safety or safe food requirements for your participants.

Re-engage/Reimagine (Engage/Imagine) (15-20 minutes)

If you are omitting the Mixed Media Response and break, you may wish to refer to this section simply as Engage/Imagine. We encourage you to use the guidelines for story sharing, from *Becoming Beloved Community* (https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/bbc_storysharing_intro_booklet.pdf). This is a great place to consider our place in the story and how we are or aren't choosing to live more fully into our revival experience.

Living Revival – Our action item/homework/takeaway (3-5 minutes)

Week 1: Strengthening our friendship with Jesus

Week 2: Strengthening our family faith connections

Week 3: Strengthening our congregations of faith

Week 4: Strengthening our neighborhood connections

Session I

Living Revival: Living with Jesus

Supplies needed for this session:

- Opening and Closing Prayer
- Introduction from Facilitator
- Scripture: Use a method that best suits your group. This may include projecting the reading onto a screen, providing Bibles for each participant, using handouts for each week, etc. Choose whichever practice works best for your group.
- Supplies for (optional) Mixed Media Response: Large stack of magazines, two sheets of cardstock for each participant, glue sticks, and scissors.
- Snacks: Feel free to use a sign-up sheet for this hospitality time.

The Gathering

PRAY

The facilitator or a volunteer may read the provided prayer or offer their prayer.

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel [in _____] for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 818)

INTRODUCTION

The facilitator offers this invitation.

An Episcopal revival is a dedicated series of gatherings that combine inspiring worship, compelling teaching, honest faith-sharing, intensified prayer, and some form of engagement with the mission of God—all for the sake of the spiritual renewal and transformation of people and of society. We like the way Mark Labberton put it: “Revival can be a loaded word. But it almost always shows itself in two interconnected ways: personal experience of spiritual renewal marked by lament and hope, and social transformation marked by justice and righteousness.”

Episcopal revivals are not an end in and of themselves. The hope is that each revival will spark greater passion to be part of the Jesus Movement and to join in ministries of

evangelism, reconciliation, care of creation, church planting, formation, youth outreach, and justice in our local communities and beyond.

Each revival seeks to:

- Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in the language of the people.
- Share faith and open space for others' stories about God.
- Organize people to embody the Good News through reconciling action and justice.
- Engage in intensified prayer and preparation before, during, and after the "event."
- Gather a diverse body that crosses lines of age, race, culture, and class.
- Equip and send people to share, celebrate, and embody the Good News in daily life.

Over our time together, we will explore and discern how to apply all we have learned from Jesus and each other during our revival journey so far, sharing our stories and exploring questions that affect all our lives. Two great questions to begin this part of our journey together are:

- Whom does Jesus say he is?
- Whom does Jesus say I am?

Those are questions we carry with us all our lives, but as we move into greater vulnerability with Jesus, ourselves, and the world, it's an excellent exercise to keep them at the top of our minds.

Let's eavesdrop on a conversation where Jesus says some really important things about who he is, who we are, and how we are to live in this knowing. We'll spend our time together today sitting with this passage, reading and considering it with our post-revival ears.

READ

The facilitator or a volunteer may read the following passage.

John 15:1-11

[Jesus said,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

MIXED MEDIA RESPONSE: COLLAGE

This exercise is optional.

Supplies

- A stack of magazines
- 2 sheets of cardstock for each participant
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

Directions

Step 1: Invite participants to consider the following questions (note: you may want to project these on a screen or write them on a flipchart or whiteboard):

- *What reminds me of Jesus' love and care toward me?*
- *What does "abiding with Jesus" mean to me?*
- *What false narratives might need to be "pruned" for me to believe I am beloved?*

Step 2: As participants consider the questions, invite them to cut and paste images, words, or colors from the magazines to create visual collage answers to the question or questions that resonate most. Participants should feel to share and chat as they work.

SNACK AND SOCIAL BREAK

RE-ENGAGING/REIMAGINING

Whom does Jesus say I am?

CONVERSATIONAL REFLECTION

Facilitator will invite participants to go deeper in the following way:

Note: Please use the StorySharing Guidelines included in the resource section of this book or at [this link](#) to inform how you lead this section.

Part 1: 1:1 Reflection (led by the facilitator)

Spend time inviting participants to reflect on how their personal experiences intersect with today's theme and Scripture.

Invite each person to find a partner for a 1:1 reflection time.

Directions:

1. Turn and find one partner. Make pairs so everyone gets the chance to listen and share. (Facilitator: If you see several trios, invite one person to hold up a hand and look around to find someone else who is in a trio and needs a partner to make a pair.)
2. Sit or stand so that you and your partner look at each other face to face.
3. One person will be Partner A, and one will be Partner B.
4. Partner A will go first and have five minutes to share. When five minutes have passed, you will hear a signal. This is the time to switch so that Partner B will share.
5. When it is your turn to speak, offer your authentic story using details and emotions.
6. When it is your turn to listen, create the space to welcome the story of the other as a real blessing.
7. As each story ends, you, the listener, get to name and celebrate what you have heard that is joyful, beautiful, and holy.
8. When you both have taken a turn, thank each other for the gift of sharing.

Question for 1:1 Time

Through this revival experience, how are you learning to abide in Jesus and trust his love for you more fully? How does it feel to call yourself “beloved”? Share this with your partner.

Note: If your group created mixed-media collages, invite them to share these as part of their five-minute answers.

Part 2: Group Reflection (led by the facilitator)

After the 1:1 time concludes, gather the group back together, then lead them in a discussion. Let's take some time to share as a group:

- How has the revival journey helped refine your understanding of Jesus and yourself?
- What new insights will you take from today's exercise into your next few days?
- What is one personal spiritual practice that you would like to focus on over the next six months?

Note: If your group created mixed-media collages, invite them to share these with the broader group as part of this discussion.

PRAYER

The facilitator or a volunteer may read this prayer or offer their own.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to *thee*, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 833)

Living Revival This Week

Facilitator will invite participants to continue their intentional reflection between sessions.

As you move through the next week, we invite you to sit with these questions each day:

- What does it mean to be Jesus' friend?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be my friend?
- How or where can I spend more time with Jesus this week?

Pay special attention to your friends this week—who looks or sounds like Jesus to you? Can you articulate how they share the presence of Jesus with you and then share that story with them or others this week? Notice how these interactions enrich your own vibrant and vital friendship with Jesus.

Session 2

Living Revival: Living with Jesus and Those We Love

Supplies needed for this session:

- Opening and Closing Prayer
- Scripture: Use a method that best suits your group. This may include projecting the reading onto a screen, providing Bibles for each participant, using handouts for each week, etc. Whatever works for you is what works.
- Supplies for Mixed Media Response: Several sheets of colored beeswax for rolling candles, wick material, dried flowers, and two or three essential oil options
- Supplies for Reengaging/Reimagining: 8½-by-11 cardstock (one piece per person), markers or pens
- Snacks: Feel free to use a sign-up sheet for this hospitality time.

The Gathering

PRAY

The facilitator or a volunteer may read or offer their own.

A Prayer for Those We Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to *thy* never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that *thou* art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 831)

INTRODUCTION

The facilitator offers this invitation.

Jesus has a lot to teach us about how to be in close community with each other. In the Gospels, we see him living up close and personal with his family of origin and his family of choice—relationships that were sometimes fraught with complicated emotions and words. Often we see Jesus rejecting what some people would say “looks like love”—polite behavior or conforming to societal expectations—in favor of showing true, honest, authentic love; speaking truth to power; and placing the love of God in the center of his relationships. In John, we see Jesus teaching his disciples—his chosen family—how not just to love him, but how to love *each other*. As we listen to these two passages of Scripture, consider how placing the love of Jesus at the center of your relationships might impact your life and theirs.

READ

The facilitator or a volunteer may read the following passages.

John 13:12-17

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

John 15:12-17

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

MIXED MEDIA RESPONSE: CANDLEMAKING

This exercise is optional.

You will need several sheets of colored beeswax for rolling candles, wick material, dried flowers, and two or three essential oil options. We’ll be making candles for our quiet spaces at home. Feel free to chat with your table partners using the prompts below as you work on your candle and consider the readings from John.

To make candles:

- Decide how tall you would like your candle to be.
- Cut a section of the wick to the appropriate length.
- Using a sharp knife, score your beeswax sheet to the right length.
- Soften up the area of beeswax in your hand.
- Place the wick along one end of the wax section and begin rolling the wax into a cylinder shape.
- Sprinkle a drop or two of your essential oil of choice on the wax as you move it.
- Continue rolling wax sections until you feel you have a good-sized candle.
- Trim wick. Place in or on an appropriate candle holder. Do not burn unattended.
- Invite participants to use these candles as a reminder that the love and light of Christ go with us into our homes and relationships.

Prompts

- When is a time you have felt the love of Jesus with your family of origin or chosen family?
- What can you take from the revival experience in your closest relationships?
- What is one practice you would like to foster within your closest relationship(s) to help place Jesus at the center? *Examples: Praying together or for each other regularly, sharing God's stories at meals, sharing a Scripture or other meaningful spiritual writings with each other, attending church together...*

SNACK AND SOCIAL BREAK

RE-ENGAGING/REIMAGINING

CONVERSATIONAL REFLECTION

Facilitator will invite participants to go deeper in the following way:

Sharing Our Stories

Note: For this section, each participant will need an 8½-by-11 sheet of white cardstock and a marker or pen. Optional: flipchart or slideshow.

We will reflect on how our personal experiences intersect with today's theme and Scripture.

The facilitator should walk participants through the following steps. Feel free to transfer these directions to a slideshow or flipchart if it will help your group.

Step 1: Think of a pivotal moment or season in your life. It can be something good or challenging. Big or small. It can be recent or older. It needs to be something you don't mind others knowing about, but maybe you don't talk about a lot.

Step 2: Take a piece of paper, and on one side, divide it in half, writing **“1: Seek”** on the top half, and **“2: Name”** on the bottom half.

Step 3: Next to the word **“Seek,”** write down a few words or phrases that describe that moment in your life. What was the event or season? What made it challenging or wonderful? *Example: You had to move across the country for your partner's job, leaving your aging parents behind while juggling the needs of a child with a chronic health issue.*

Step 4: Next to the word **“Name,”** write down the names of the person or persons who walked through that moment or season with you. Who were they? How did they show up for you? *Example: A friend drove your car across the country so that you could tend to your child during the trip.*

Step 5: Turn your paper over and write **“3: Celebrate.”**

Step 6: Next to the word **“Celebrate,”** write all the attributes of God that that person or persons displayed during that event or season. Were they long-suffering, patient, generous, forgiving, or kind? (You can read Galatians 5:22-23 for inspiration or think of how God is described in the Psalms.) *Example: Your friend was loving, selfless, generous, and long-suffering.*

Step 7: Take your piece of paper, stand up, and find a partner—someone you don’t know well. Decide who will be Person A and who will be Person B. Set a four-minute timer during which Person A (using what they wrote on their paper) should share their story in this manner with Person B. (NOTE: Person B should only listen and not offer any feedback while Person A is talking.) **This happened _____, and this person(s) showed up for me by _____.** **This reminds me of God’s love in these ways _____.** Repeat this with Person B, sharing with Person A for four minutes.

Step 8: Switch partners and repeat the storytelling, following the pattern in Step 7.

Step 9: Give yourselves a hand! You just shared a God story with each other.

Reflect on Exercise

Once you have completed the Sharing Our Stories exercise, come together as a group to reflect on the experience. Invite members of the group to share:

- How was the experience of placing God in the middle of your relationship with the person or people in your story?
- How could you practice this exercise more often, privately or with your family of origin or chosen family? What might begin to bubble up between you?
- How does it challenge or encourage you to know that Jesus is present in your relationships?

PRAYER

The facilitator or a volunteer may read or offer their own.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 815)

Living Revival at Home

This week, we invite you to spend some significant sharing and exploring stories with your family of origin or family of choice about times when the love of God was present. Please use the Sharing Our Stories method if needed. We hope this conversation—or set of talks—can shine a light into one of the holiest spaces in your life. You may even want to start keeping a running list based on these conversations—maybe on your fridge or in the middle of your dinner table or message board. Encourage your nearest and dearest to add to this list by sharing their stories during mealtimes or other gatherings. Some additional questions to take your conversation further: What do you imagine when we talk about God? What are your favorite attributes of God? What is your favorite story about Jesus? What is your favorite thing about Jesus? What do you think happens when we pray?

Session 3

Living Revival: Living with Jesus and the Church

Supplies needed for this session:

- Opening and Closing Prayer
- Scripture: Use a method that best suits your group. This may include projecting the reading onto a screen, providing Bibles for each participant, using handouts for each week, etc. Whatever works for you is what works.
- Supplies for Mixed Media Response (Optional): Modeling clay, Play-Doh, magic sand, etc., for each participant
- Supplies for Re-engaging/Reimagining: A copy of the Book of Common Prayer for each participant, or the chosen portions projected on a screen or written on a flipchart
- Snacks: Feel free to use a sign-up sheet for this hospitality time.

The Gathering

PRAY

The facilitator or a volunteer may read or offer their own.

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 816)

INTRODUCTION

The facilitator will offer this invitation.

You and your community of faith have spent a significant time in prayer and study as you have gone through the revival journey. You've celebrated some Good Fridays, Holy Saturdays, and Easter Sundays in your personal lives and your life together. Over the past two sessions, you have begun to reflect on what it means to place Jesus in the center of your life and within your closest relationships. As you move into the next phase of your life as a community of faith, we hope you will encourage and keep each other accountable as you move toward the goals you've begun to set as part of the fruit of your revival journey.

The Hebrew prophets impart profound wisdom and practical teaching to the people of God. Jesus leans intensely into the prophets repeatedly as he teaches his disciples. Our readings from Isaiah and John help us to understand what Jesus asks us more deeply to

do in the world—how to be his hands and feet in our homes, churches, cities, and the ends of the earth. As you read these two selections, consider concrete examples of how your faith community has lived into the charges that Isaiah and Jesus offer. You can also think about the next steps you'd like to take and ways to coax up the embers you've stoked along the revival journey so far. Dream and pray about what might come next for you and your congregation.

READ

The facilitator or a volunteer may read the following passages.

Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness,
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt,
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him,

“Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

MIXED MEDIA RESPONSE: SCULPTURES

This exercise is optional.

Each participant will need a relatively large portion of modeling clay, Play-Doh, magic sand, or other manipulative—enough to break into three smaller pieces.

Directions (Facilitator offers these instructions.)

You have 15 minutes to make three sculptures that reflect how you feel your community of faith has moved and grown during the revival journey.

- Create one sculpture that symbolizes what your community was like before the revival journey began.
- Create one that denotes what it was like in the midst of the process.
- Create one that illustrates your hopes for what comes next.

As you work on your sculptures, feel free to discuss with your other group members some of the following questions:

- How are you and your church becoming more like Jesus—what are the outward and visible signs?
- Amid revival, how has God enriched your life together as a church family—how have your relationships been impacted?
- How can you continue to welcome Jesus and live into Spirit-leading even when revival excitement begins to wane?
- How can you covenant together to continue to seek Jesus and his way of love as a community of faith—not leaning on just the clergy or staff to lead this work?

SNACK AND SOCIAL BREAK

RE-ENGAGING/REIMAGINING

Both our readings present us with a to-do list that could be taken strictly literally or entirely as a metaphor. Because God has given us two hands, let’s imagine we can do both. Consider what Isaiah and Jesus have said. Which passage resonates with you most? Where do you see yourself in that narrative?

CONVERSATIONAL REFLECTION

Facilitator will invite participants to go deeper in the following way:

Part 1: 1:1 Reflections

Facilitator offers the following instructions:

Ask participants to divide into pairs. Ensure each pair has access to copies of the Book of Common Prayer or the following selection from the Catechism (p.855 and following). Invite one partner in each pair to read the questions while the other partner reads the answers.

What is the mission of the Church?

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

How does the Church pursue its mission?

The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

The Ministry

Who are the ministers of the Church?

The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

What is the ministry of the laity?

The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Discuss

Facilitator offers the following prompts:

In our pairs, we will spend five minutes each sharing our answers to the following questions. The facilitator will keep time and announce when to switch.

- Which of these questions and answers caught your attention? Why?
- How does this portion of the catechism encourage or challenge your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus as a congregation?

Part 2: Group Reflection

Let's take some time to share as a group:

- What literal and metaphorical ways has your congregation lived into what Isaiah and Jesus are asking us to do? Or what do you believe God is calling you to do now?
- How is your church pursuing (or how could it pursue) the mission of the church more fully?
- What role could you play in that call?
- What commitment do we feel called to make to live more fully in what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst?

PRAYER

The facilitator or a volunteer may read or offer their own.

A Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 817)

LIVING REVIVAL AT HOME

During the next week, we invite you to think about the following questions:

- What fruits of your revival journey need to be lifted and celebrated?
- Which areas of concern in your faith community need more care to thrive more fully?
- How are you being called to more fully “represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church”?

As you respond to these questions, write a letter of exhortation and encouragement to the people/committees/action groups in your faith community that are seeing their fruit come into season. Write a letter of encouragement to the people/committees/action groups that are languishing. Consider where God might be prompting you to serve more fully and write a letter to those serving in that area. Send the letters.

Session 4

Living Revival: Living with Jesus and the World

Supplies needed for this session:

- Opening and Closing Prayer
- **Scripture:** Use a method that best suits your group. This may include projecting the reading onto a screen, providing Bibles for each participant, using handouts for each week, etc. Whatever works for you is what works.
- **Supplies for Mixed Media Response:** A way of sharing a video, printouts of the Getting to Know Your Neighborhood worksheet (found at the end of this document), printouts of your church's neighborhood demographics (you can find those here: <https://www.thearda.com/>)
- **Snacks:** Feel free to use a sign-up sheet for this hospitality time.

The Gathering

PRAY

The facilitator or a volunteer may read or offer their own.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 212)

INTRODUCTION

The facilitator will offer this invitation.

Luke 10 is rich with powerful instruction and exhortation from Jesus. The chapter is probably the most famous because it contains the parable of The Good Samaritan. Jesus doesn't tell this story accidentally—he's teaching his disciples how to go about their business in the world—even as they are on their missionary journeys, revived by the Holy Spirit and led by love.

READ

The facilitator or a volunteer may read the following passage.

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,

and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

MIXED MEDIA RESPONSE: COMMUNITY MAPPING

Prepare to watch Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s “Address to the Nation.”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvGVDVv9GrY&t=585s>

Invite participants to consider the following as they watch and listen:

- What tugs at your heart?
- How can these pieces of exhortation and instruction help you and your congregation follow through with your next steps?

Divide into groups of two or three. Ask each group to spend about seven minutes completing the “Getting To Know Your Neighborhood” worksheet. Ask them to use the data for your congregation’s neighborhood.

Come together as a larger group and share what each group wrote on their worksheets.

- Where are the common threads?
- What gifts does your congregation have that could be shared with those groups?
- What gifts does your congregation lack that those groups could bring to you?

SNACK AND SOCIAL BREAK

RE-ENGAGING/REIMAGINING

CONVERSATIONAL REFLECTION

Facilitator will invite participants to go deeper in the following way:

Part 1: 1:1 Reflection

We will reflect on how our personal experiences intersect with today's theme and Scripture. First, find a partner for 1:1 reflection. We will spend five minutes each sharing our answers to the following question. The facilitator will keep time and announce when to switch. (For more in-depth directions, revisit Session 1.)

Question: Where do you see yourself in the story of the Good Samaritan? Is there a story you can share about when you received or gave help or perhaps when you missed the opportunity to help? How did the love of Jesus show up?

Part 2: Group Reflection

Let's take some time to share as a group:

- If we disappeared from our neighborhood, what would our neighbors miss most? (Would they notice?)
- If our congregation was a character in the story of the Good Samaritan, who would it be?
- How are we prepared to welcome our neighbors as children of God? If we aren't prepared, what steps do we need to take?
- What is one practice we can commit to as a church that will help us live, look, and love more like Jesus in our neighborhood and the broader community?

PRAYER

The facilitator or a volunteer may read.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 833)

LIVING REVIVAL AT HOME

Although the four Living Revival sessions are over, we hope this is just the beginning of a revival in your life, the lives of your loved ones, your congregation, and your wider community.

As you reflect on where you and your congregation are—or where you want to be—within the story of the Good Samaritan, take a moment to [listen to a sermon](#) by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As you listen, consider how God may be leading you and your church to see the world with new eyes and to inspire your hearts to unique and fresh actions as you move into living a revived ministry.

As you move through the next few weeks, we encourage you to reach out to at least three new people you have met through the revival journey. Talk with each other about what you've learned during these past few sessions. How can you continue to grow, living with Jesus, living with Jesus and your loved ones, living with Jesus and your church, and living with Jesus and the world?

Resource Recommendations

Spiritual Growth Resources

My Way of Love - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/my-way-of-love/>

Living the Way of Love in Community - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/building-intentional-small-groups/>

Daily Prayer Resources - <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/Item/15054/Our-Podcasts.aspx>

Evangelism Resources

Embracing Evangelism - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/embracing-evangelism/>

Evangelism Toolkit - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/evangelism/>

Invite Welcome Connect - <https://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com/>

Good News Gardens - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/good-news-gardens/>

Discipleship Resources

Centered: A Christian Discipleship Resource - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/centered/>

Sacred Ground - <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>

Transforming Questions - <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2394/transforming-questions-brdownloadable-course.aspx?bCategory=FMCURR>

About Episcopal Revivals

An Episcopal revival is a dedicated series of gatherings that combine inspiring worship, compelling teaching, honest faith-sharing, intensified prayer, and some form of engagement with the mission of God—all for the sake of the spiritual renewal and transformation of people and of society. We like the way Mark Labberton put it: “Revival can be a loaded word. But it almost always shows itself in two interconnected ways: personal experience of spiritual renewal marked by lament and hope, and social transformation marked by justice and righteousness.”

The Episcopal revivals are not an end in and of themselves. The hope is that each revival will spark greater passion to be part of the Jesus Movement and to join in ministries of evangelism, reconciliation, care of creation, church planting, formation, youth outreach, and justice in our local communities and beyond.

Each revival seeks to:

- Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in the language of the people.
- Share faith and open space for others’ stories about God.
- Organize people to embody the Good News through reconciling action and justice.
- Engage in intensified prayer and preparation before, during, and after the “event.”
- Gather a diverse body that crosses lines of age, race, culture, and class.
- Equip and send people to share, celebrate, and embody the Good News in daily life.

For more information on Episcopal revivals, visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-revivals/>.

About Episcopal Evangelism

Episcopalians are passionate about proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in our words and actions. Through the spiritual practice of evangelism, we seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people—then invite everyone to MORE. We do this through the following:

Evangelism OF the Church

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.” - *Matthew 22:37-38*

With God's help, as followers of Jesus Christ, we will:

- Recognize and live into our belovedness as children of God.
- Engage in daily practices of prayer, scripture reading, worship, and service.
- Recall times in our lives when the love of God has been real and present to us.
- Articulate our own story of experiencing God's love for us.

Evangelism BY the Church

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - *Acts 1:8*

With God's help, as bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ, we will:

- Invite and listen deeply to the stories of everyone we encounter.
- Name and celebrate stories of the presence of God in Christ everywhere.
- Share our stories of encounter, good news, and resurrection in Jesus.
- Plant seeds of hope, and trust God to give the growth.

Evangelism FOR the Church

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God... In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” - *Ephesians 2:19-21*

With God's help, as members of the body of Christ, we will:

- Allow ourselves and our churches to be transformed by new relationships.
- Discover a fresh approach to the Gospel as we gain new perspectives.
- Invite others to discover their own belovedness in Christ.
- Grow more servants for the Jesus Movement to change the world.

Charter submitted to the 79th General Convention by the Executive Council Committee on Local Mission and Ministry. Description of “Episcopal Evangelism” drafted by the Task Force on Leveraging Social Media for Evangelism and the Episcopal Evangelism Initiatives Team. Submitted to 79th General Convention.

For more information, visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/evangelism/>.

About The Way of Love

What is the Way of Love?

The Way of Love is a way of life. More than a program or curriculum, it is a return to the ancient pathways and Rules of Life that followers of Jesus have observed for centuries. They knew the power of commitment to a core set of practices—turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest—and the power of gathering in a small group where you find love and support for living into these commitments. If we hope to not only worship Jesus but to grow more like him and bear his redeeming love in the world, we can adopt a Rule of Life like the Way of Love and find a community with which to practice it.

What is a Rule of Life?

A Rule of Life is an intentional commitment to a set of practices that provide guidance, rhythm, and inspiration for living a beautiful, meaningful, and holy life. As we place these practices at the heart of our daily lives and join with companions who share the commitment, we grow more and more in the unselfish, hope-filled Way of Love that Jesus embodied in the world.

What are the Way of Love Practices?

TURN: Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus.

LEARN: Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings.

PRAY: Dwell intentionally with God daily.

WORSHIP: Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God.

BLESS: Share faith and unselfishly give and serve.

GO: Cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus.

REST: Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration.

For more information, visit www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove.

