

Covenant for Climate Action – Children’s Talk

Prep: You will need a tree (this could simply be a branch), a pen, strips of paper to hang on the tree (one for each parishioner and Sunday school participant), someone who can help you write and hang the promises on the tree or branch.

During the Children's Talk, encourage everyone think of a promise they have made. When they come up to receive communion or blessing they can add their promises to the tree. Perhaps this is something the congregation can engage in as an act of prayer through a whole season or a number of weeks.

Leader: Ok I promise to keep this short and sweet!

Promises. Can anyone tell me what a promise is?

- *A promise is a commitment from one person to another to do (or not do) something in the future. We can also make promises to ourselves.*

In the book of Genesis at the beginning of our bible God made a promise:

"I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth... I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9: 11, 13

Have you ever made a promise?

Who would like to share one of those promises?

- *Write the promise down on a piece of paper and hang it on the tree*
- Give examples of promises you have made and that the congregation has made. Add these to the tree also. Maybe your parish has committed to “greening” through not using single use plastics/single serve condiments, installing solar panels, or starting a community garden.

At every baptism we make and reaffirm promises – that means to make the promise again. Some of those promises include:

- That we who witness the vows of baptism will do all in your power to support the newly baptised in their life in Christ.
- To continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

- To proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ.
- To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself.
- To strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Wow look at all of these promises. Some of these promises might be easy to keep, some are harder, some we have made to ourselves and some we have made together as a community.

All of these promises have one thing in common. We each strive to do our best to keep our promise. Even when we feel discouraged, upset or angry and we might feel like not keeping a promise. When that happens, it is really important to stop and think about why and what might we need to change to be able to keep a promise.

At the beginning of our time we heard about a promise God made with Noah and all of his descendants, that includes us. Does anyone remember what that promise was?

"Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth... I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9: 11, 13

Today as we continue our time of worship together we are going to think more about this story and our Covenant with God, and also hear the story Jesus told about the Vine and Branches. These are both stories of promise and show us that God knows we are human and gives us permission to make mistakes and make changes.

Before we leave for Sunday School let's take a moment to pray.

God of Grace,

We give thanks for the stories in the Bible to teach us and guide us as we seek to do our best in this world and in the care of your creation.

Bless this time together that your word inspires and that we hear you in our sharing together.

Amen.