

Joining the Feast

Year A Spring 2023 Second Sunday in Lent—Pentecost



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What you will find in Joining the Feast!

The Church Year Calendar

Describes the important church festivals and special days for the coming season. It provides theological reflections on their importance for the church's life and our own lives.

The Shape of the Season

Presents an overview of the focus scriptures for the weeks in the coming season. It discusses the biblical and theological significance of each of the passages.

Joining Worship and Learning: Making the Connections and Time with Children

A helpful feature in this section of *Joining the Feast* is the inclusion of the stories on the focus scriptures from the multi-age course. These stories can be used in the children's time during worship. Notice that some songs are used by several age levels but not in the same session. If you are interested in including a prayer, poetry, or artwork from an age level, speak with the leader in advance. May your congregational worship be enlivened by these suggestions to join worship and learning.

Joining Mission and Learning

Help the participants in the *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* connect with existing service opportunities in your congregation. Review this list, and offer suggestions to the leaders. Give this chart to the chair of the mission or outreach committee so that the work of the committee can be strengthened through the church school.

Litanies and Prayers

A selection of poetic prayers and responsive readings that helps worship leaders connect the church's educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God.

Children's Bulletins

A fun activity page is provided weekly to give children a sense of belonging and help them feel welcome in the worship experience. These special children's bulletins connect their worship experience to the education themes.



Joining the Feast

We invite you to "Join the Feast"!

Our exciting *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* offers great opportunities for the local church. Pastors, educators, and participants can experience the wonder of God's nourishing word to us. For church schools, for study groups, and in preparation for teaching and preaching, the resources here will deepen and strengthen our faith. We have an amazing "feast" set before us! We desire and can find further understanding in our faith—of who God is and what God has done!

Joining the Feast helps pastors, educators, and worship leaders plan for education and worship. We want to assist in reflecting on how to incorporate scriptural and seasonal emphases across different parts of the church's life.

Joining the Feast can be shared in education and worship committees. It enables important biblical themes to be integrated into the church's study and worship experiences. A chart of suggestions for ways educational emphases can be used in worship is a feature of what follows here. Church school teachers can discuss these materials with each other to enhance education for all age levels in the church. Pastors who plan their lectionary preaching will find taking an overall look at this church season to be useful for their preparations. In all this we want to join teaching and preaching. We want the church's educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God!

An important goal for pastors and educators in the church is to connect or join the church's educational experience with the church's worship experience. People of all ages who participate in church school study can find their Christian faith enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship reinforce and expand what they have been considering in their educational time. Education and worship can be mutually supportive in helping God's word in Scripture come alive in the Sunday morning experience. Consideration of the same lectionary reading in preaching can deepen the insights gained in church school.

Pastors who want to build on what has been done in education welcome this *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* as a way to prepare congregational members for directions into which the sermon can lead. Those who participate in the education time will find the insights gained there enhanced by preaching which considers the same passage and brings God's word to bear in fresh and nourishing ways. So as we "Join the Feast," joining the church's educational and worship dimensions can bring to life the richness of God's word in Scripture.

Donald K. McKim



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CHILDREN'S BULLETIN

We're Moving! Genesis 12:1-4a

Abram and Sarai lived in Haran, where Abram's father had taken his family on the way to Canaan. After Abram's father died, they continued to live there, until something surprising happened.

God spoke to Abram. God said, "Leave Haran and the rest of your family. Take your wife Sarai and your nephew Lot with you. I will show you to a new land. In that land you will become a great nation. I will bless you there. Indeed you will be a blessing."

March 5, 2023

Abram was so surprised that he couldn't speak. After all, how does one talk to God?

Then God said:

"Whoever blesses you, I will bless.

"Whoever curses you I will curse.

"All the families on the earth will be blessed by you." Abram did what God said. He, Sarai, and Lot packed up all that they had and left for this new land that God would show them.

Trace the letters.

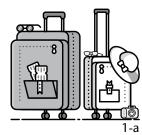


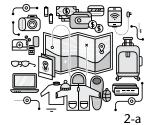
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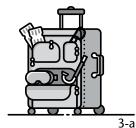
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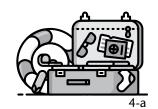
Spring 2023

Abram and Sarai had to pack in a hurry. Sometimes it's easy to forget something when we are in a hurry. In each set, find which picture has the item that is not packed and identify the item.



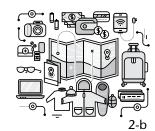


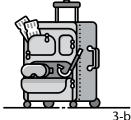








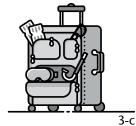














1-b camera, 2-c medicine bottle, 3-b glasses, 4-a sock, 5-a flashlight