



The Anglican Communion

by Archdeacon Harry St. Clair Hilchey

Among the millions of Christians who gather for worship on Sundays are those who in some parts of the world (for example, England and Canada) are known as Anglicans. In other parts of the world (notably in the U.S.A.), these Christians call themselves Episcopalians. “Anglican” is the more dominant of the two designations, as witness such terms as “the Anglican Communion” and Anglican World, the official magazine of the Anglican Communion.

One of the things Anglicans invariably do when they gather for worship anywhere in the world is to declare what they believe; with great formality they say or sing words written in Greek more than 1,600 years ago and later translated into many languages, including English. We know those words as the Nicene Creed, written by an early church council in the 4th century.

“I believe” and “We believe”

There is considerable significance in the fact that there are two forms of the Nicene Creed; one saying “I believe” and the other saying “We believe.” The first says, in effect, that a Christian is first and foremost a person who can say in all sincerity: “I believe in God, maker of Heaven and earth” and “I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.” That belief, that faith, is infinitely more than an individual’s personal opinion. It is a shared faith, an inherited faith, a faith defined and refined by centuries of Christian witness and Christian scholarship.

Who are the “we”?

Who are the “we” who share the belief in God the Father, maker of Heaven and earth, and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God? A sentence toward the end of the Nicene Creed provides the answer: I believe . . . we believe, in one holy catholic and apostolic church. When we affirm that “we believe,” we are not thinking only of our fellow worshipers in our parish church, not only of all Episcopalians or Anglicans, but of all Christian people, “a great multitude of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues.” What a grand and glorious vision: a vision of the Church as a worldwide reality which reaches across all the boundaries and all the barriers of culture and language and nationality which unites them in a common allegiance to Jesus Christ!

One, holy, catholic, apostolic

One of the most memorable comments on this vision comes from the 1920 Lambeth Conference—a meeting of all Anglican Bishops:

IN THIS EDITION

this quarter investigates

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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Family Edition:**
**Family Discoveries: The
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**Coming Up on the
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"The unity which we seek exists. It is in God . . . The one Body exists. It needs not to be made, nor to be remade, but to become organic and visible. Once more, the fellowship of the members of the one Body exists. It is the work of God, not of men. We have only to discover it, and to set free its activities."

The New Testament has much to say about the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Paul writes in Ephesians about the Church's oneness: "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all," (Ephesians 4:4-6, NIV).

First Peter 2:9 describes all who are believers in and followers of Jesus Christ as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." St. Matthew's Gospel ends with the familiar words of the directive which the risen Christ gave to His followers: "Go . . . and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . . teaching them." Oneness, holiness, catholicity, and apostolicity are clear marks of the Church as it is described in the New Testament.

Pray for the Church

The former Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada prayed these words concerning the unity and strength of the Church: "Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in His mission to the world, and together witnessing to His love on every continent and island. Amen."

Coming Up on the Church Calendar

Early Christians organized their year to remember and celebrate the important events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and the beginning of the Church. For more information, consult *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979). Here are a few select events.

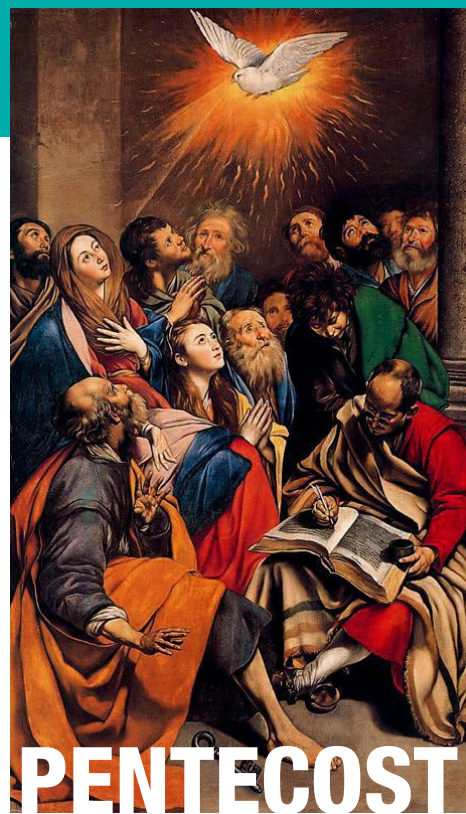
Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, lasts for 40 days plus Sundays. So, there are actually 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Lent is a time to ask God to prepare us for ministry. Traditional colors used in churches are purple or rough looking fabric to simulate sackcloth.

Palm Sunday takes place on March 24. This day is the dramatic start of Holy Week. On this day, the congregation processes with palms, much like the crowd at Jesus' Triumphal Entry. The service includes a reading of the Passion, a Gospel passage describing the death of Jesus. Often the congregation takes the part of the crowd in saying "Crucify Him!"; acknowledging that all people's sin made Jesus' sacrifice necessary. Traditional colors used in churches are crimson or purple.

Easter, March 31, is the highest point of the Church calendar. More than a day, Easter is a season that lasts 50 days until Pentecost. The resurrection of Jesus Christ not only gains a victory over one man's death, but the victory over death for all who would receive it. At Easter, the priest proclaims "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" The joyful congregation responds "The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!" Traditional colors used in churches are white or "best" material.

Ascension Day is May 9. This day often gets overlooked but is a major celebration on the Church calendar. At this time, Jesus is taken back up into Heaven to sit "at the right hand of the Father." He returned to Heaven to send out the Holy Spirit, who equips all Christians for ministry. Finally, Jesus gives the Great Commission at the Ascension. Traditional colors used in church are white or "best" material.

Pentecost, May 19, has been called the birthday of the Church. It occurs 50 days after Easter and ends that season. This is the day the Holy Spirit descended to Jesus' followers (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit guides and assists Christians in living a godly life. The traditional color used in churches is red for the Holy Spirit.



PENTECOST

Passing the Torch Family Edition

Family Discoveries The Anglican Communion

Consider these family activities to reinforce the idea that the Church is family.

Resources to Get You Started

Use *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) to lead your family in the following prayers: Prayer for the Diocese, Prayer for the Parish, Prayer for the Church.

START CLOSE TO HOME

Connect with your child's godparents, close "relatives" in their church family. If they live nearby, plan a special dinner, picnic, or video and popcorn night and invite the godparents over. Be sure your child is in on the planning and that the event includes him or her. Take a picture of your child with their godparents, and keep the photo on your refrigerator as a reminder to pray for these special church family members.

If the godparents live far away, email them a note from your child. If you have younger children, consider scanning in a drawing or using an application such as Paint or similar programs for your child to create a special picture. Attach a photo of your child and have him or her ask the godparents for their photo. When it comes, print it and put it on the refrigerator as a reminder to pray for them with your child.

If your child does not have godparents, invite other friends from the parish to your house and have them meet and play a game with your child. Emphasize to them, and to your child, that they are all part of the same "family" of the Church. At the end of the evening, ask the godparents or guests to join you and your child in saying the prayer for the parish.

EXPAND YOUR CIRCLE

If your diocese has a cathedral, plan a family trip to visit it. Depending on the distance, you could take a Sunday afternoon outing or even an overnight combined with other sightseeing. But be clear that visiting the cathedral is a bit like making a trip to the old family home.

If possible, attend a worship service at the cathedral. It could be a special diocesan-wide service, like an Easter vigil which some dioceses hold in their cathedral, or an afternoon Good Friday service. Or if you have traveled to get to the cathedral, you might attend their Sunday morning Eucharist. If you visit when there is no service, spend some time as a family in a pew, praying for the bishop, the diocese, and for their Christian witness.

If your diocese doesn't have a cathedral building, find out where the diocesan office is and visit there. Or, you could visit a historic church building or other Episcopal/Anglican Church in your diocese with the same idea that it is part of your extended "Church family."

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Toddlers In Your Toddler/2 Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

March Activities

■ Throughout the month of March explore the Anglican Communion. **You have mommies, daddies, brothers, and sisters at home, but you also have a special family at church.** Lead the children to pray this prayer with you every Sunday: **Thank You, God, for my church family.**

■ To celebrate **Palm Sunday**, March 24, reproduce copies of page 11 of this supplement on green paper. Cut out the palm branches ahead of time. Act out the Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11) with your class, encouraging them to follow your lead. **One day Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. People were so excited to see Him that they waved palm branches** (wave your palm branch) **and praised Him. They shouted “Hosanna!”** (Shout “Hosann!”)

Easter Sunday Activity

■ For March 31, reproduce page 17 of this supplement and provide crayons for the children to color the butterfly. **Easter is the happiest day of the year. On this day, we celebrate that Jesus is alive. He did not stay dead. On Easter, we say “Alleluia!”** which means **“Praise the Lord.”**

May Activities

■ Celebrate **Ascension Day** on Sunday, May 5. Supplies include paper plates, cotton balls, glue sticks, and crayons. Give each child a paper plate and crayons to color a sky. Let the children use the glue sticks and cotton balls to create “clouds.” **Jesus died and then came back to life on Easter. We are coloring beautiful skies to remind us that on Ascension Day God the Father took Jesus back up to Heaven. The disciples watched Jesus go up into the clouds. Jesus is King of our lives.**

Check out pages 18–19 of this supplement for Pentecost activity ideas for May 19.

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Preschool Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

March Activities

■ Throughout the month of March explore the Anglican Communion. Ask the preschoolers about their families: **What is your family like? Is it big or small? What is your favorite thing to do with your family?** Explain that they have another family too, their church family. **We have teachers and leaders and friends in our church family.** Lead them to pray this prayer with you every Sunday: **Thank You, God, for my church family that teaches me, prays for me, and loves me.**

■ To celebrate **Palm Sunday**, March 24, reproduce copies of page 11 of this supplement on green paper. Cut out the palm branches ahead of time. Act out the Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11) with your class, encouraging them to follow your lead. **Only a few days before He died, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. Jesus had performed many miracles. People knew He was special. They were so excited to see Him that they waved palm branches** (wave your palm branch) **and praised him. They shouted "Hosanna!"** (*Shout "Hosanna!" and march around the room waving your palm branch.*)

Easter Sunday Activity

■ For March 31, create an Easter story basket. Using foam sheets, cut out hearts from a red sheet and crosses from a brown sheet. Also add empty, plastic Easter eggs. Include enough hearts, crosses, and eggs for each child and yourself to have one of each. **Jesus loved us so much** (*pass out the hearts*) **that He died on the cross** (*pass out the crosses*) **for our sins.** (*Pass out the eggs.*) **Jesus was buried, but He didn't stay in the grave. Open your eggs and look at what's inside. Nothing—Jesus is alive!** After going through the story with the children, let them play with the pieces and tell the story themselves.

May Activities

■ Celebrate **Ascension Day** on Sunday, May 5. Supplies include paper plates, cotton balls, glue sticks, and crayons. Give each child a paper plate and crayons to color a sky. Let the children use the glue sticks and cotton balls to create 'clouds.' **Jesus died and then rose again three days later on Easter. We are coloring beautiful skies to remind us that on Ascension Day God the Father took Jesus back up to Heaven. The disciples watched Jesus go up into the clouds. Jesus is King of our lives.**

Check out pages 18–19 of this supplement for Pentecost activity ideas for May 19.

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Early Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

March Activities

■ Throughout the month of March, explore the Anglican Communion. Ask the class about their families: **What is your family like? What is your favorite thing to do with your family?** Explain that children have another family too: their church family. **What do you like to do when you are with your church family?** Reproduce page 16 of this supplement and adhere a class picture to the copies to send home with your students.

Have a **Palm Sunday** celebration on March 24, complete with costumes and props. You will need two 29"-wide x 24"-long sheets of gift wrap paper for each child.

For a robe: Fold each side of a 29"-wide sheet of gift wrap paper in to meet in the center. Children can decorate their robes with crayons, stickers, etc. As they decorate, cut one neck and two arm openings in each child's robe. For a palm branch: Roll the second sheet of gift wrap paper up from the long side to make a tight cylinder. Tape closed near the center. Cut one end of the roll into fringe with long snips, fairly close together. Reach down inside the fringed end of the cylinder and gently pull up the center of the roll. Or, reproduce and use page 11 of this supplement for the palm branch.

Help the children to put on their robes. Read the **Palm Sunday** story from Matthew 21:1-11 and encourage the children to act out the story. They can spread their cloaks on the road and wave their palm branches as they shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David . . . Hosanna in the highest!" Additional volunteers may be needed to help with the robes. Consider making the palm branches ahead of time.

Easter Sunday Activity

■ For March 31, **Easter**, reproduce copies of page 12 of this supplement. Provide sheets of yellow, red, white, and brown paper and glue sticks. Have the children tear the paper and glue the pieces to the coordinating location labeled on the sheet. **Have you seen a large candle in church on Easter? It's called a Paschal Candle. It's used to symbolize that Christ is the light of the world, and that light overcomes the darkness of death. The candle stays lit in the church until Pentecost. Remember, Jesus is alive!** Read Matthew 28:1-10.

May Activities

■ Celebrate **Ascension Day** on Sunday, May 5. Supplies include paper plates, cotton balls, glue sticks, and crayons. Give each child a paper plate and crayons to color a sky. Let the children use the glue sticks and cotton balls to create "clouds." **We are coloring beautiful skies, because on Ascension Day, we remember when Jesus went up to Heaven to be with God. Jesus told His followers to tell the Good News.** Read Mark 16:15. **Then, His disciples watched Jesus go up into the clouds.**

Check out pages 18–19 of this supplement for Pentecost activity ideas for May 19.

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

March Activities

■ Throughout the month of March, explore the Anglican Communion. Invite someone in your parish or from elsewhere who was originally from a branch of the Anglican Communion other than your own. Have this person describe what the church in their part of the world was like—the services, the bishop, the music, the teaching. If they have a Prayer Book or service book from that place, ask if they could bring it with them. As a group, try to come up with a “same” and “different” chart. Include big things and small things. Close with a prayer thanking God for creating a worldwide Christian family to which we belong.

To celebrate **Palm Sunday**, March 24, use the map on page 14 of this supplement. Read Mark 11:1-11. Point out the places mentioned in the story and show the class their location relative to Jerusalem. Use the map as a reference to create

a classroom “map” by using masking tape to “draw” out the places or designating different objects in the classroom as different places. Read the story again moving the class from place to place.

Easter Sunday Activity

■ **Easter** takes place on March 31. Reproduce copies of page 12 of this supplement. Provide sheets of yellow, red, white, black, and brown paper and glue sticks. Have the children tear the paper and glue the pieces to the coordinating location labeled on the sheet. **Have you seen a large candle in church on Easter? It's called a Paschal Candle. It's used to symbolize that Christ is the light of the world and that light overcomes the darkness of death. The candle stays lit in the church until Pentecost. Remember, Jesus is alive!** Read Matthew 28:1-10.

May Activities

■ **HERO FOR CHRIST** Use on May 12 or May 19

C.S. LEWIS

When he lived: 1898-1963

What he did: Do you like to make up stories? As a child, C. S. Lewis liked to make up stories. All his friends called him Jack. Jack and his older brother wrote stories and drew pictures about talking animals. As an adult, Jack was a professor and a writer when he became a Christian. Years later, Jack started writing a series of books called *The Chronicles of Narnia*. These books told about the adventures of children in the land of Narnia and their friendship with a lion, Aslan. While children and adults both enjoyed the books, Jack always thought that children understood them best. He enjoyed reading letters from children and writing back to them.

Hero for Christ: Activity

Reproduce and send home the Note to Parents (page 13 of this supplement). Read the first chapter of *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (first book in *The Chronicles of Narnia* series). Encourage your students to engage in C. S. Lewis's literature.

Celebrate **Ascension Day** on Sunday, May 5. Supplies include butcher paper, cotton balls, glue sticks, and crayons. Lay out a long piece of butcher paper and have the children work together to create a mural of the sky on Ascension Day. Let the children use the glue sticks and cotton balls to create “clouds” and crayons to color the sky. Once the mural is finished, instruct the class to write words that describe Jesus, who He is and what He has done. **After Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the grave, He ascended. Ascension means going up. We remember when Jesus went back up to Heaven. Jesus told His disciples to preach the Good News. He also told them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come help them. We are to share the Good News too. Jesus is alive, He loves us, and He saves! Who can you share the Good News with?**

Check out pages 18–19 of this supplement for Pentecost activity ideas for May 19.

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).



C. S. Lewis.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Upper Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

March Activities

■ Throughout the month of March, explore the Anglican Communion. Invite someone in your parish or from elsewhere who was originally from a branch of the Anglican Communion other than your own. Have this person describe what the church in their part of the world was like—the services, the bishop, the music, the teaching. If they have a Prayer Book or service book from that place, ask if they could bring it with them. As a group, try to come up with a “same” and “different” chart. Include big things and small things. Close with a prayer thanking God for creating a worldwide Christian family to which we belong.

To celebrate **Palm Sunday**, March 24, use the map on page 14 of this supplement. Read Mark 11:1-11. Point out the places mentioned in the story and show the class their location relative to Jerusalem. Use the map as a reference to create a classroom “map” by using masking tape to “draw” out the places

or designating different objects in the classroom as different places. Read the story again moving the class from place to place. **What other cities or places do you recognize from the Bible? Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up in Nazareth in Galilee. He was beside the Sea of Galilee when He called His first disciples (Peter, Andrew, James, and John). He performed His first miracle (water to wine) in Cana in Galilee.**

Easter Sunday Activity

■ For March 31, **Easter**, commemorate the events of that day with an impromptu play. Break your class up into four groups. Assign each group one of the following accounts: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-18. Encourage your students to read through the passage and spend time discussing it in their groups. Have each group prepare and present a skit.

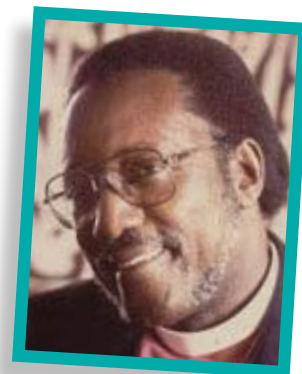
May Activities

■ **HERO FOR CHRIST** Use on May 12 or May 19

BISHOP FESTO KIVENGERE

When he lived: 1919-1988

What he did: Bishop Festo Kivengere had all the reason in the world to hate. The dictator of Uganda, Idi Amin, had murdered Bishop Festo's friend and boss, Archbishop Janani Luwum. Furthermore, Bishop Festo had to flee Uganda because his own life was in danger. Yet Bishop Festo refused to hate Idi Amin. Instead, he preached about Jesus Christ and prayed for God's help to love Idi Amin. Bishop Festo knew that only with Jesus' help, would he be able to forgive. He wrote a book called *I Love Idi Amin*, in which he told about the goodness and power of Jesus. Eventually, Idi Amin was thrown out of power, and Bishop Festo returned to Uganda.



Hero for Christ: Discussion

Bishop Festo Kivengere chose forgiveness over hatred. Who are you tempted to hate? Remember, God forgives us and commands us to forgive. Forgiveness is not easy, but like Bishop Festo, you can ask God for help in forgiving. Read these verses on forgiveness and discuss what they tell us about forgiveness: Matthew 18: 21-35, Colossians 3:12-14, and 1 John 1:9.

Celebrate **Ascension Day** on Sunday, May 5. Reproduce The Good News (page 15 of this supplement). **After Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the grave, He ascended. We celebrate Jesus going up to Heaven. We celebrate this event when God the Father honored God the Son for His dying and rising again. We also celebrate that Jesus is preparing a place in Heaven for His followers. Jesus told His disciples to preach the Good News. He also told them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come help them. We are to share the Good News too.** Divide your class into groups of three or four students. Instruct them to look up the verses and answer the questions listed on The Good News. Reunite the class and discuss some of their conclusions.

Check out pages 18–19 of this supplement for Pentecost activity ideas for May 19.

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Youth In Your Middle School Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

March Activities

■ Throughout the month of March, explore the Anglican Communion. Invite someone in your parish or from elsewhere who was originally from a branch of the Anglican Communion other than your own. Have this person describe what the church in their part of the world was like—the services, the bishop, the music, the teaching. If they have a Prayer Book or service book from that place, ask if they could bring it with them. The Sunday before the speaker comes, encourage your class to come prepared to ask questions comparing some aspect of the Episcopal or Anglican Church they know with that aspect of the guest's experience of Anglicanism elsewhere. As a group, try to come up with a "similar" and "different" chart. Include big things and small things. Close with a prayer thanking God for creating a worldwide Christian family to which we belong.

To celebrate **Palm Sunday**, March 24, use the map on page 14 of this supplement. Read Mark 11:1-11. Point out the places mentioned in the story and show the class their location relative to Jerusalem. **What other cities or places do you recognize from the Bible? Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up in Nazareth in Galilee. He was beside the Sea of Galilee when He called His first disciples (Peter, Andrew, James, and John). He performed His first miracle (water to wine) in Cana in Galilee.**

Easter Sunday Activity

■ For March 31, **Easter**, commemorate the events of the day with impromptu plays. Break your class into four groups. Assign each group one of the following accounts: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18. Encourage students to read through the assigned passages and discuss them in their groups. Have each group prepare and present a skit.

May Activities

■ **BACK IN TIME** Use on May 12 or May 19

MONICA When she lived: 332-387

Monica was born in North Africa and grew up in a Christian home, but she was married off to a man who was not a Christian. Over time, Monica's patient, loving faith won her husband to faith. Monica is remembered as the mother of Augustine of Hippo, who became one of the most influential theologians in Christianity. As a young man, Augustine restlessly searched to satisfy his deepest longings, trying many experiences and philosophies. During those years, Monica never ceased praying. She longed for Augustine to know true peace and happiness in Christ. Often she was so moved in her prayers for her son that she wept. A bishop comforted her saying, "Surely the son of so many tears will not perish." He was right. Monica's prayers were finally answered. Her son Augustine found that only God could satisfy his deepest longings. At age 33 he became a Christian, surrendering his life to God. Monica's example reminds us of the value of persistent faith. Her prayers affected not only her son's life, but the lives of countless other Christians (including Martin Luther and John Calvin) who have found truth, hope, and inspiration in Augustine's writings.

Back in Time: Discussion

Provide note cards and colored pencils. **Monica prayed for years for her son. Her prayers weren't answered immediately, but she didn't give up. Do you know of people who have prayed for you? Remember to pray for others and keep praying even when it doesn't seem to do any good. Write down the names of three people you need to be praying for. Keep the list in a place you will see it every day as a reminder to pray.**



Celebrate **Ascension Day** on Sunday, May 4. Reproduce The Good News (page 15 of this supplement). **After Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the grave, He ascended. We celebrate Jesus going up to Heaven. We celebrate this event when God the Father honored God the Son for His dying and rising again. We also celebrate that Jesus is preparing a place in Heaven for His followers. Jesus told His disciples to preach the Good News. He also told them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come help them. We are supposed to share the Good News too.** Divide your class into groups of three or four students. Instruct them to look up the verses and discuss the answers to the questions listed on The Good News. Reunite the class and discuss some of their conclusions.

Check out pages 18–19 of this supplement for Pentecost activity ideas for May 19.

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Youth In Your High School Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

March Activities

■ Throughout the month of March, explore the Anglican Communion. Invite someone in your parish or from elsewhere who was originally from a branch of the Anglican Communion other than your own. Have this person describe what the church in their part of the world was like—the services, the bishop, the music, the teaching. If they have a Prayer Book or service book from that place, ask if they could bring it with them. The Sunday before the speaker comes have each student pick a topic about the Episcopal or Anglican Church to research, specifically focusing on what your diocese does/believes (clergy, Communion, order of service, baptism, Prayer Book/service book). As a group, try to come up with a “similar” and “different” chart. Close with a prayer thanking God for creating a worldwide Christian family to which we belong.

To celebrate **Palm Sunday**, March 24, use the map on page 14 of this supplement. Read Mark 11:1-11. Point out the places mentioned in

the story and show the class their location relative to Jerusalem. Go through the following passages to find the locations of other events in Jesus' life and mark them on the map. Luke 2:1-7, Luke 2:21-24, Luke 2:39-40, Matthew 4:12-17, Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 4:23, John 2:11, John 2:12-16, John 4:1-5, John 10:40-42, John 11:1-44, Luke 22:39-44, Luke 22:47-53, John 19:16-18.

Easter Sunday Activity

■ For March 31, **Easter**, read about Jesus' resurrection in John 20:1-18. **Easter is the highest point of the church calendar. More than a day, Easter is a season that lasts 50 days until Pentecost. The resurrection of Jesus Christ not only gains a victory over one man's death, but the victory over death for all who would receive it. Easter is a traditional time for baptisms.** Look in *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) and read the vows that are made at baptism. Read Mark 1:1-13 and discuss Jesus' baptism and temptation.

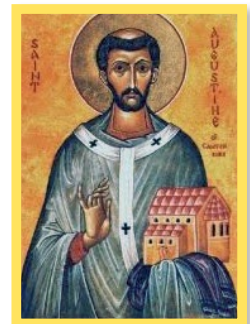
May Activities

■ **BACK IN TIME** Use on May 12 or May 19

AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY Latter half of sixth century A.D. died c. 604

Augustine, a Roman monk, was late in life given a challenging assignment by Pope Gregory the Great: serve as a missionary to the Anglo-Saxons in Britain. Christianity had existed in Britain a long time, but mainly among the Celtic people. When the ruthless Angles and Saxons from Germany and Denmark invaded, they drove Christianity out of the region now called England. Christianity flourished in Ireland and Wales, but was nearly forgotten in England.

Augustine's task was to share the faith with the king, Ethelbert of Kent. Ethelbert had married a Christian princess from Gaul, establishing a little contact with the faith. Nonetheless, Augustine and his fellow monks were deeply apprehensive as to how this king would receive them. In fear, they turned back once, but they finally arrived in Kent in 597. They went to meet Ethelbert, walking toward him two by two, singing prayers for the city, carrying a silver cross and a painting of Jesus' face. The king listened to them and allowed them to share the Gospel with his people. Soon, Ethelbert and many of his people became Christians. Augustine remained in England to help the new church grow. An ordinary man whose obedience and courage God used to renew the Christian faith in a dark, troubled time, he became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.



Back in Time: Discussion

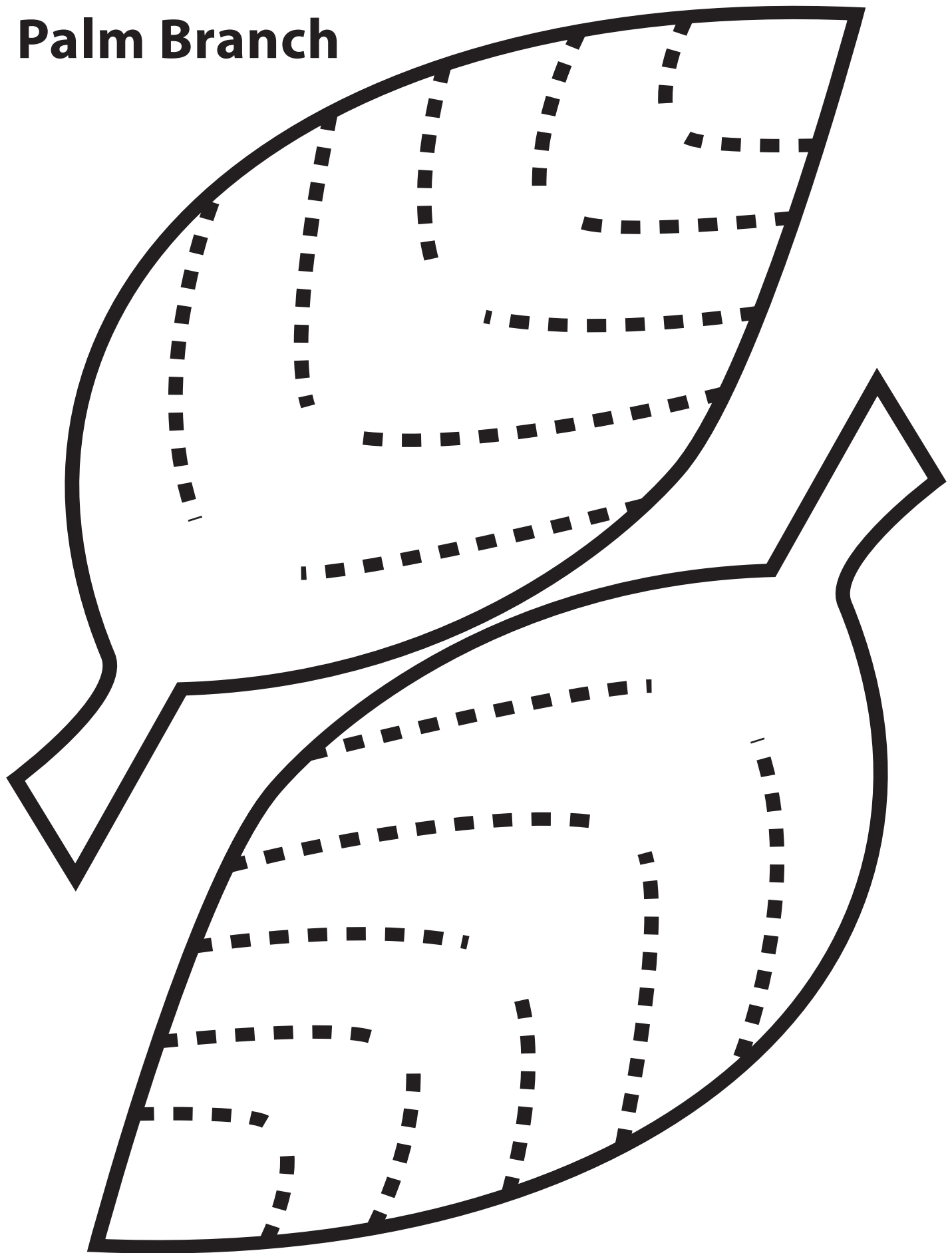
Put yourself into Augustine's shoes. You are sent on a potentially lethal assignment, and you have a long journey to think about what you should do when you arrive and what fate might await you. Even though Augustine and the other monks were devout followers, they almost gave up. However, like Esther, they relied on God and made a difference in the lives of thousands. Why do you think Augustine and the others decided to greet Ethelbert in the manner they did? What would you have done?

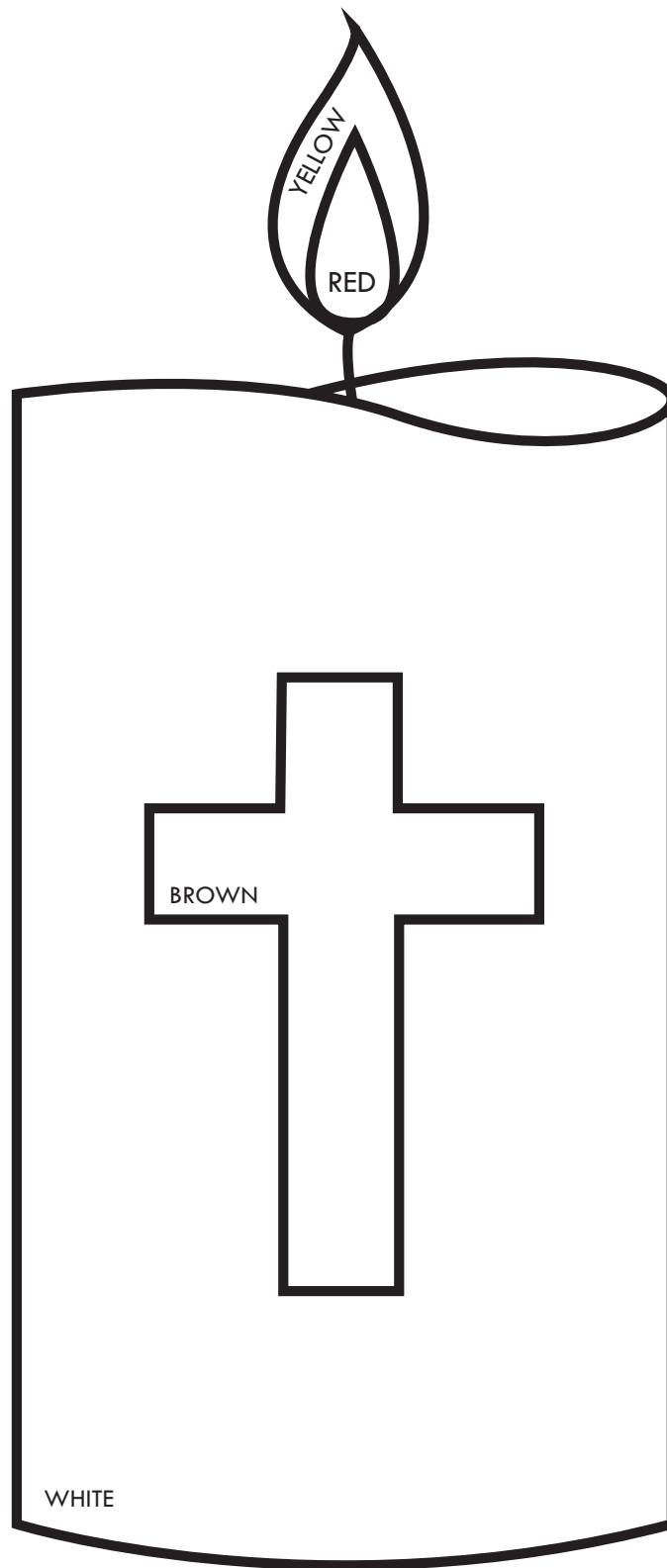
On **Ascension Day**, Sunday, May 4, lead your class in a discussion of Christ as the head of the Church. Ascension Day comes during the season of Easter. At this time, Jesus is taken back up into Heaven to sit at the “right hand of the Father.” And then the Holy Spirit is sent to equip Christians for ministry. This event is also a glorification of the Son by the Father. Finally, it is when Jesus gives the Great Commission. Read Romans 8:34. We refer to Christ as the “head of the Church.” Break your class up into groups and have them read the following verses: Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Ephesians 1:15-22, Ephesians 4:1-16, Colossians 1:15-23. Discuss the following questions: **Christ is the head of the Body. What are we? What role do you play in the Church? What impact does Christ's position and power have on your life? What do you think this should mean for your parish and diocese? Encourage your students to look at the verses in context. (Who wrote this book? Who was the book written to? What is the author talking about before and after he wrote this passage?)**

Check out pages 18–19 of this supplement for Pentecost activity ideas for May 19.

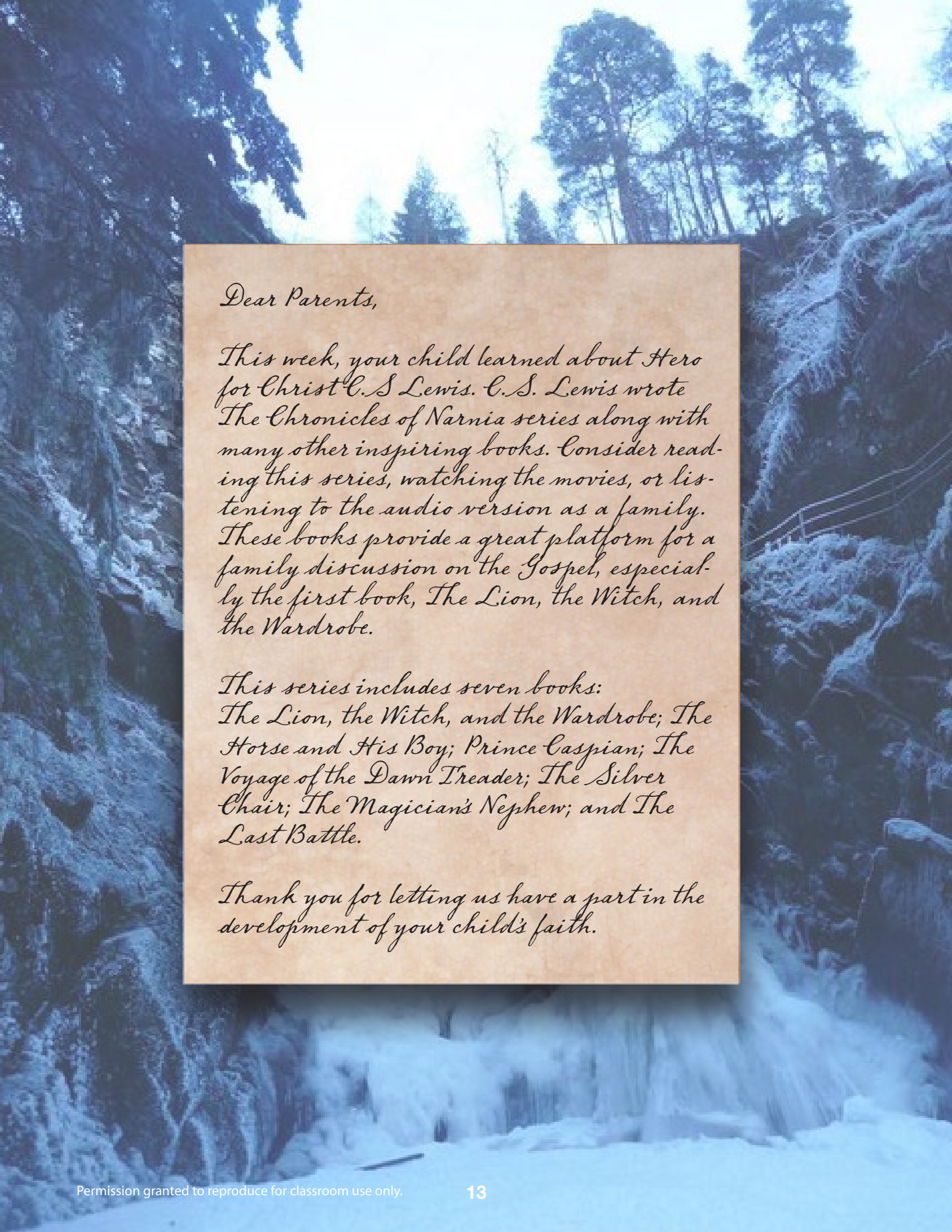
Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

Palm Branch





**Tell the World:
Jesus is Alive!**



Dear Parents,

This week, your child learned about Hero for Christ C. S. Lewis. C. S. Lewis wrote The Chronicles of Narnia series along with many other inspiring books. Consider reading this series, watching the movies, or listening to the audio version as a family. These books provide a great platform for a family discussion on the Gospel, especially the first book, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.

This series includes seven books: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe; The Horse and His Boy; Prince Caspian; The Voyage of the Dawn Treader; The Silver Chair; The Magician's Nephew; and The Last Battle.

Thank you for letting us have a part in the development of your child's faith.



*Route Jesus would have taken
during the Triumphal Entry
from Bethpage to Jerusalem*





The Good News

Consider:

What is the Good News?

Why should you share the Good News?

Who can you share the Good News with?

Read:

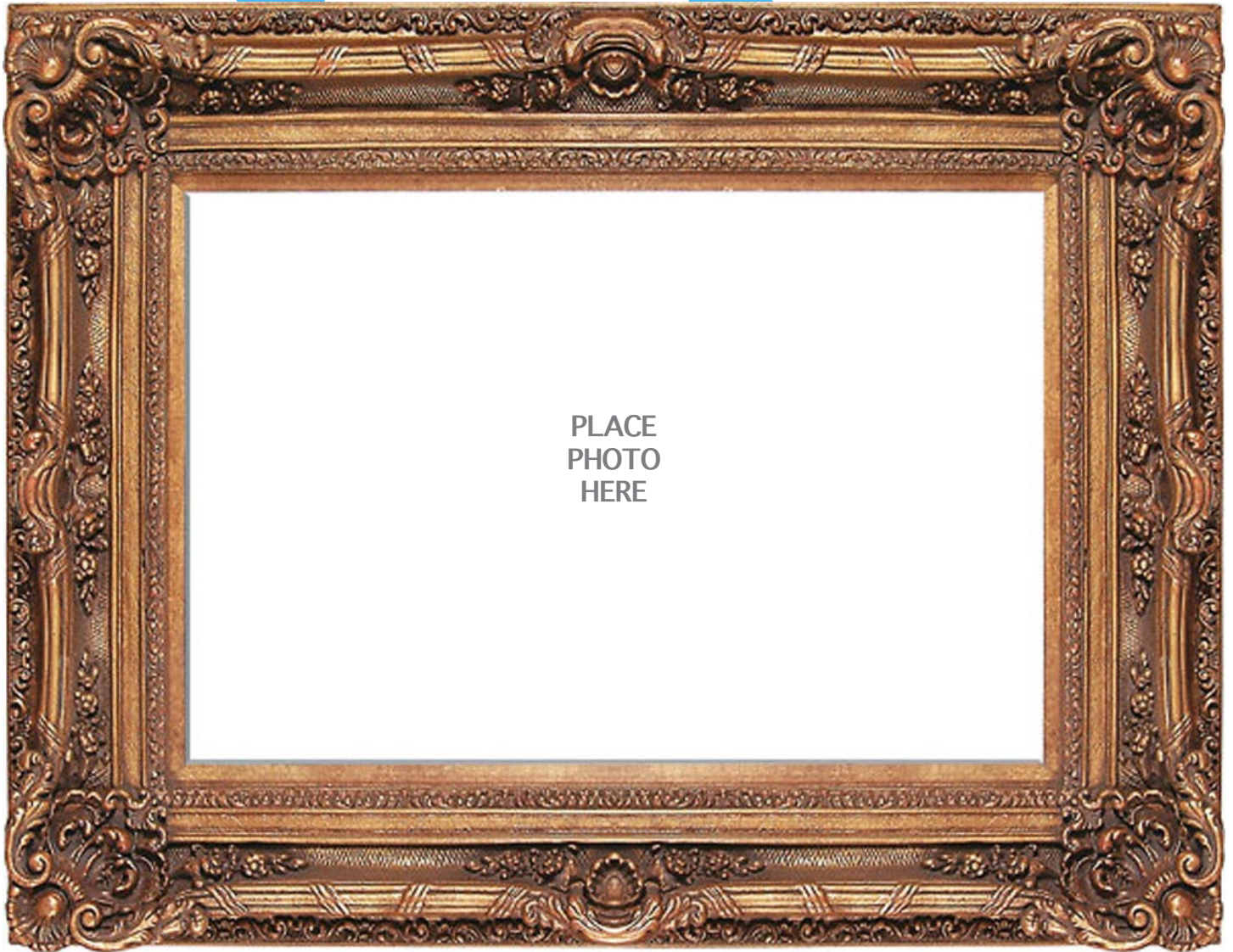
Luke 2:8-11, John 3:16-17, Acts 5:42, Acts 10:34-43,

Romans 10:14, Isaiah 52:7, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 1:14,

2 Corinthians 5:11-15

Notes:

My Church Family



PLACE
PHOTO
HERE

Alleluia!



Jesus is alive!

Happy Birthday, Church!!!



Celebrate Pentecost with a birthday party for the Church.

Adapt the following ideas:

- Provide a birthday cake and punch.**
- Sing "Happy Birthday."**
- Read Acts 2:1-4.**
- Play party games: Musical Chairs, Twister, Charades, Hula-Hoop or Limbo.**
- Reproduce the coloring sheet on the following page.**

