

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Lenten Study Resource

*Fill Me, Use Me...for the
Work of Ministry*



Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21, BCP p. 102

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Introduction

Dear Friends:

The service of Ash Wednesday invites Christians to the observance of a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. This Lenten Resource has been designed upon the foundation of faith formation to serve as a companion to you on your Lenten journey as you take on the disciplines of holy listening and reflection in preparation for the Lord's passion and resurrection.

We place before you the plight of many of God's children whose everyday lives are threatened by the systematic push out of classrooms into the prison system. Schools across the country have adopted Federal Zero tolerance policies, the War on Drugs and the No Child Left Behind Act to create the School-to-Prison Pipeline that disproportionately affects children of color.

It is our prayer that as you become familiar with the details of the discussion materials, you will ask how might God be calling you into service to participate in God's mission that is already taking place in the world. In the Baptismal Liturgy there are two specific questions to guide our reflections. 1) "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" 2) Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?" These indicate to us that we have a responsibility toward all of God's children. And as we are called to be the voice of the voiceless and to transform unjust structures of society, we hope that you will be guided by your belief in the awesome power of God to create places of hope and life-giving spirit for young people.

Shalom in Christ's name,



The Reverend Angela S. Ifill
Missioner, Office of Black Ministries

Week 1

Opening Ritual

Set the prayer table and light the candle

Invite someone to read a prayer or pray spontaneously

Beginning Our Journey Together

Welcome to our Lenten Study Series and thank you for joining us on this six-week journey to share fellowship with one another, reflect on meditations, consider issues of the day and discern how God might be calling each of us into his vineyard according to the gifts given us.

Discussion will take place within the context of the Baptismal Covenant, the Five Marks of Mission and the Charter for Lifelong Faith (Christian?) Formation. Because we will be spending the next several weeks together in conversation, let us begin by getting to know one another better as we share our name and our interest in being here. We hope to build bonds of affection that will take us beyond these gatherings.

Each week you will learn more about the impact of the School-to-Prison Pipeline on young children and teenagers and at the end will determine ways in which you (this congregation) might make a difference.

Our time together will be built upon the foundations of the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation, the Baptismal Covenant and the Five Marks of Mission which we will review this evening. (See appendix)

Read and discuss each document

Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation

The Baptismal Covenant

The Five Marks of Mission

Read together the 1st Mark of Mission

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Exploring the Landscape The School-to-Prison Pipeline

The School-to-Prison Pipeline is one of the most important civil rights challenges facing our nation today.

Schools today rely on law enforcement, rather than teachers and administrators, to handle minor school misconduct.

Zero-tolerance disciplinary policies are often the first step in a child's journey through the pipeline.

Students of color are disproportionately represented at every stage of the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

Students with special needs are disproportionately represented in the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

The School-to-Prison Pipeline excludes children from receiving an education, isolates them from their peers and separates them from their family systems.

We must demand accountability for the education of all students.

Invite someone to read scripture

Share Reflection

The words “Go ye into the world and preach the gospel” were etched in the chapel of the seminary where I spent three years in training. These words formed me in ways that were beyond belief as they were instrumental in helping me to become the person in Christ I am today. They connected for me the words from Isaiah who heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send and who will go for us,” and my heart said, “Send me.” We are all called to go into the world and preach the gospel using the gifts with which we have been blessed, and according to St. Francis, “preach the gospel and sometimes use words.” Many have taken sharing the gospel to mean either going door to door, or standing on the street and sharing tracts or preaching while waving the Bible at passersby. But as varied the gifts which have been bestowed to us by God, so too are the ways in which an individual could preach the good news of Christ.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I, send me!” *Isaiah 6:8-9*

Invite people to respond to the question:

How can you, in the context of what you have just learned, Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom?

Closing Ritual

Invite people to share a personal reflection on the time they just spent together.
Invite someone to lead a closing prayer.

Pray together the Lord’s Prayer

Assignment:

Research for discussion how zero-tolerance policies have impacted the School-to-Prison Pipeline.



Image Courtesy of VA Theological Seminary

Week 2

Opening Ritual

Set the prayer table and light the candle.

Invite someone to read or spontaneously recite a prayer.

Read Together the 2nd Mark of Mission

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

Invite someone to read the scripture

Share Reflection

When Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion on them. Jesus was going from town to town, passing through one village after another, seeing disease, sickness and untold need. The people were tired, they looked harassed and helpless and Jesus likened them to sheep without a shepherd. Imagine that Jesus is so overcome with compassion he shakes his head with sadness as he says to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field.” We have a very present example of people in need from their experiences in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and a whopping nor’easter that blanketed the devastation with snow. Loved ones were lost, homes with all their worldly goods were gone, people were left without heat, and they were cold, hungry and without clothing. Out of the goodness of their hearts Americans responded generously in such circumstances. Millions of dollars were raised, and well-wishers travelled from across the country to lend a hand so that people who suffered losses might have hot meals, clothing, heat and other basic needs. God calls Christians daily into the vineyard to labor because the harvest is plentiful – there is much need in the communities in which our churches are located, and on a daily basis these needs are probably unknown because parishioners do not live in the neighborhoods.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew: 9:35-38

Pray together the Lord’s Prayer

Exploring the Landscape

- School disciplinary, juvenile and criminal records work against disadvantaged students when they apply for colleges, scholarships, jobs and selective high schools.
- In many places having a criminal record can prevent students and their families from living in public housing.



Image by Tom Salvatore

- In 2004, the Federal Government spent \$60 million to hire police forces for schools and \$19.5 million on school safety equipment such as metal detectors.
- Many experts say zero-tolerance policies, a holdover from the war on drugs, punish major and minor rule infractions equally and create the pipeline effect, bringing police disproportionately into high-minority schools.
- Federal data/civil rights surveys indicate that black students are more than three and a half times likely as white students to be suspended or expelled. More than 70 percent of students arrested in school or handed over to law enforcement were Black or Hispanic.

Invite people to respond to the questions:

What strikes you as most unjust?

How might you use your gifts to bring hope to the disenfranchised?

Closing Ritual

Invite people to share a personal reflection on the time they just spent together.

Invite someone to lead a closing prayer.

Assignment:

Bring in a new piece of research related to how the School-to-Prison Pipeline contributes to the incarceration of youth.

Week 3

Opening Ritual

Set the prayer table and light the candle

Invite someone to read a prayer or pray spontaneously

Read Together the 3rd Mark of Mission

To respond to human need by loving service

Invite someone to read scripture

Share Reflection

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” We have an obligation to take care of our children and youth. In responding to their needs we are in fact meeting Jesus face to face. All children and youth need that guidance, protection and love that would guard them against systems that rob them of their innocence. Though we are limited in our abilities to correct all the wrongs in today’s world, programs like the Rising Stars Experience (RISE) provide a secure springboard that aids tremendously in transforming the lives of children and youth.

RISE assists us in living out our mandate as Christians to respond to human need through loving service by being Jesus’ hands, feet, eyes and ears in this world. Through the RISE program, we are ultimately equipping our children and youth with the holistic skills needed to become confident and responsible leaders - allowing us to truly say

“Yes Lord,” we did it to one of the least of these.

*The Rev. Arlette D. Benoit
General Theological Seminary, M.Div. 2013*

Pray together the Lord’s Prayer

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Matthew: 9:35-38



Exploring the Landscape

- High-stakes testing programs encourage educators to push out low-performing students to improve their school's overall test scores. Students of color are especially vulnerable to push-outs.
- Former New York State Chief Judge Judith Kaye, who chairs the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children said, "We now have 10 years of busting kids out of school for minor infractions, but we're just passing forward the next generation of criminals." This judge chaired a recent conference titled "National Leadership Summit on School-Justice Partnership," which focused on keeping kids in school and out of court. At the conference Russell Skiba, an Indiana University professor, shared research data that showed that African Americans' disproportionality in discipline is at its highest level and still increasing.

One alternative to the School-to-Prison Pipeline is the Rising Stars Experience (RISE) Pilot Project (See appendix)

Invite people to respond to the questions:

How do you envision your response in your congregation?

Closing Ritual

Invite people to share a personal reflection on the time they just spent together.
Invite someone to lead a closing prayer.

Assignment:

Create a prayer, poem or piece of art that reflects your thoughts about the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

Week 4

Opening Ritual

Set the prayer table and light the candle.

Invite someone to read a prayer or pray spontaneously.

Read together the 4th Mark of Mission

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

Invite someone to read scripture



http://farm1.static.flickr.com/52/138587392_a160822194_m.jpg

for his audacity and intrusion. Taking action points to the question raised in the letter to James, “What good is it my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?” Faith is not faith unless it is lived out in daily life. Our praise of God, worship and fellowship is not sufficient in and of itself; it requires that we take heed of the injustices and inequalities that exist in society all around us and to put to use the skills with which we have been blessed.

We do not have to look very far for a system of injustice which is especially destructive because of its negative impact upon our children. The School-to-Prison Pipeline criminalizes students from a young age, destroying their confidence in those whom they would rather trust for an education and direction for their lives. Instead, it seems that the system is more dedicated to incarceration than education, denying our children the right to a childhood and teen years that prepare them to lead sustainable lives in the future. It is in this arena and others like it that we might look at Jesus’ example in the temple, and respond in constructive ways to advocate for children in an effort to break the School-to-Prison Pipeline and offer our young people pipelines to the Kingdom of God.

Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations?’ But you have made it a den of robbers.” And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

Mark 11:15-19

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

Exploring the Landscape

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and the American Bar Association (ABA) are a few of the organization that are working to combat the School-to-Prison Pipeline and advocate for the rights of children.

Invite people to respond to the questions:

What have you learned about how organizations in your own communities are responding?

In what ways can you advocate for the rights of a child to have a quality education, to be taken care of and treated with respect?

In what ways can you transform the unjust structure of the School-to-Prison Pipeline?

Closing Ritual

Invite people to share a personal reflection on the time they just spent together.

Invite someone to lead a closing prayer.

Assignment:

What can you do to combat unjust structures/actions in your community? Be specific. Who will you share the story with? How will you encourage others to support your efforts?

Week 5

Opening Ritual

Set the prayer table and light the candle.

Invite someone to read a prayer or pray spontaneously.

Read Together the 5th Mark of Mission

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the life of the earth.

Invite someone to read the scripture

Share Reflection

God created all the earth and human beings in God's image and God gave human beings dominion over the all earth. "You formed us in your own image giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures." (*Eucharistic Prayer D, Book of Common Prayer, p.373*)



How do we consider the words "rule" and "serve" in this prayer? Have we misinterpreted their intent? The prayer continues, "When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death." There are numerous agencies and organizations such as World Wildlife Fund, the National Audubon Society, The Sierra Club, Business Council for Sustainable Development and Co-Op America that are at work to preserve the earth and its creatures. A serious consideration for us today is how well are we being stewards of the earth and

all its gifts, and in what ways are we really serving God's creatures? In our prayers we ask God that, "As we probe the mysteries of God's creation, we may come to know God more truly and more surely fulfill our role in God's eternal purpose." (*Prayer for the Knowledge of God's Creation, Book of Common Prayer, p. 827*)

This prayer is instructive in that we pray for the grace to grow closer to God, to know him more clearly as we discover the wonders of the earth using the gifts and skills with which we have been blessed. May we seek more and more to appreciate God's creation and embrace the understanding that the environment has enough for all people and that we have the responsibility as good stewards to care for the earth and protect it for future generations.

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created human-kind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Genesis: 1:26-28

Exploring the Landscape

- Research shows that overreliance on suspensions and arbitrary punishment systems damage the bonds that students need to form with adults for health and success.
- In its 2006 review of exclusionary and zero-tolerance disciplinary policies, the American Psychological Association found no evidence that the use of suspension, expulsion, or zero-tolerance policies resulted in improvements in student behavior, nor do they increase school safety. They found that suspensions and expulsions are linked to an increased likelihood of future behavioral problems, academic difficulty, detachment and dropout.

Invite people to respond to the questions:

Given the information above, what do you think is the justification for their presence in the school system?

What impact do you believe the overall policies have on the lives of young children and their adulthood?

In what ways would the lack of a quality education affect the community?

What role does the STPP play on poverty and the inability to care for God's creation?

Closing Ritual

Invite people to share a personal reflection on the time they just spent together.

Invite someone to lead a closing prayer.

Assignment:

Speak with one or two young people who might be affected by the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Learn of their experiences in school.

Speak to a teacher about your findings over these past weeks. Are they aware of how zero-tolerance disciplinary policies play out against students in the school system?

Week 6

Opening Ritual

Set the prayer table and light the candle

Invite someone to read a prayer or pray spontaneously

Continuing the Journey Beyond These Walls

Recap the Five Marks of Mission

Invite someone to read the scripture

Share Reflection

I once heard a televangelist say that too often people confuse being “broke” with being “poor,” and that the two are not synonymous. One who lacks basic resources (food, shelter, clothes, finances, accessibility to good healthcare and education) the preacher called “broke.” Those who have been broken by the hopelessness and despair that the challenges of life present, he described as truly poor—the poor in spirit.

The Lord appoints each and every one of us to bring the good news of the kingdom of God to the poor in spirit who have been broken and oppressed by the world in which they live. Each of us has had “poor” moments in our lives, yet through our faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection, our hope rescues us from spiritual starvation. We do well to seek those who are poor in spirit in the places where they live, work, play and worship, because it requires us to go deeper into relationship with “the other,” and to offer the spiritual food of the Good News.

As Christians we have been entrusted to nurture our brothers and sisters among us, especially the children for whom a poor spirit has been imposed, to the full stature of Christ. When we actively respond to human need by loving service and seek to transform unjust structures of society that disproportionately affect the marginalized, we proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. We are called to serve, and serving God’s people is perfect freedom. So, “Proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Amen.

*Adrienne R. Hymes
Virginia Theological Seminary, M.Div. 2014*

General Discussion

Share reactions to the series

Develop action plans

Create designs for implementation

Closing Ritual

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist or Evening Prayer

Or Prayer circle with each one sharing a prayer

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Luke 4:18-19

Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the
prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good
News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving
your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all
people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Book of Common Prayer pp. 304-305.

"The first mark of mission... is really a summary of what all mission is about, because it is based on Jesus' own summary of his mission (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:18, Luke 7:22; cf. John 3:14-17). Instead of being just one of five distinct activities, this should be the key statement about everything we do in mission."¹

—The Anglican Consultative Council

The Five Marks of Mission, developed by the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) between 1984 and 1990, is an example of a practical strategy that sets expectations for mobilizing the baptized into the world to do the work of building God's kingdom, ultimately transcending the challenges that inevitably grow from church diversity. The Episcopal Church's 2012 General Convention established The Five Marks of Mission as the priority framework for mission over the next three years.

The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The "call-to-action" mission objectives of the Marks of Mission provide a structure that offers guidelines for individuals and congregations to mobilize and to grow in intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and with the "other" through missionary activity.

Involvement in mission is at the root of a faith community's identity. It begins with an individual's sense of responsibility and grows into a reflection of the person's character and identity within the community of faith. Mobilizing individuals through mission can restore not only the vitality of the congregation, but equips God's people to share in the renewing of his world. Keeping the Five Marks of Mission top-of-mind as we approach ministry with fresh eyes and open hearts reminds us that we are always about the work of helping to nurture our brothers and sisters to the full stature of Christ.

Notes:

1. <http://www.archbishopofyork.org/pages/five-marks-of-mission.html>

To Learn More about The Five Marks of Mission:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/fivemarks.cfm>

The Charter For Lifelong Christian Formation

Lifelong Christian Faith Formation in the Episcopal Church is
Lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of
Christ and is informed by Scripture, Tradition and Reason.

I have called you friends. John 15:14-16

Through the Episcopal Church, God Invites all people:

- To enter into a prayerful life of worship, continuous learning, intentional outreach, advocacy and service.
- To hear the Word of God through scripture, to honor church teachings, and continually to embrace the joy of Baptism and Eucharist, spreading the Good News of the risen Christ and ministering to all.
- To respond to the needs of our constantly changing communities, as Jesus calls us, in ways that reflect our diversity and cultures as we seek, wonder and discover together.
- To hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people, placing ourselves in the stories of our faith, thereby empowering us to proclaim the Gospel message.

*You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit. John 15:14-16*

Through the Episcopal Church, God Inspires all people:

- To experience Anglican liturgy, which draws us closer to God, helps us discern God's will and encourages us to share our faith journeys.
- To study Scripture, mindful of the context of our societies and cultures, calling us to seek truth anew while remaining fully present in the community of faith.
- To develop new learning experiences, equipping disciples for life in a world of secular challenges and carefully listening for the words of modern sages who embody the teachings of Christ.
- To prepare for a sustainable future by calling the community to become guardians of God's creation.

I am giving you these commands that you may love one another. John 15:17

Through the Episcopal Church, God Transforms all people:

- By doing the work Jesus Christ calls us to do, living into the reality that we are all created in the image of God and carrying out God's work of reconciliation, love, forgiveness, healing, justice and peace.
- By striving to be a loving and witnessing community, which faithfully confronts the tensions in the church and the world as we struggle to live God's will.
- By seeking out diverse and expansive ways to empower prophetic action, evangelism, advocacy and collaboration in our contemporary global context.
- By holding all accountable to lift every voice in order to reconcile oppressed and oppressor to the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christian Faith Formation in the Episcopal Church is a lifelong journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ.

For more information: www.episcopalchurch.org 1-800-334-7626 ext. 6051
Approved by General Convention 2009 - Resolution A082

The Rising Stars Experience (RISE)

Just like moons and like suns
With the certainty of tides
Just like hopes springing high
Still I'll rise.

Maya Angelou

What is the Rising Stars Experience? (RISE)

RISE is a positive experience that teaches life skills and builds confidence

What is the purpose of RISE?

RISE is to give young people an opportunity to learn more about themselves, recognize their gifts and realize their potential for success

Who is the program for?

RISE is for young boys and girls (stars) ages 7 to 14 and their parents and guardians

How are parents and guardians involved?

RISE expects parents and guardians to be supportive of their stars to ensure regular attendance and full participation

What does RISE involve?

RISE involves teaching and experiences in conflict management, problem solving, storytelling, negotiation skills, anger management, shadowing, field trips, mentoring, music, arts & crafts and more

When does it meet?

RISE will meet on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

When does it begin and end?

RISE begins on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 and ends Saturday, June 28, 2014 with a festive celebration.

Principles Adopted by RISE

Christ-centered	Faith-based	Excellence
Parent/Guardian Relationships	Honesty	Respect
Open-mindedness	Dignified	Punctuality
Positive Attitude	Acceptable Behavior	Correct Speech
Perseverance	Neat and Clean Attire	Dress for Success
Regular Attendance	Full Participation	Hope-building

Prayer for Young Persons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than ways of the world and following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

For information contact:

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To Learn More about the School-to-Prison Pipeline:

American Civil Liberties Union:

<http://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/school-prison-pipeline-talking-points>

Children's Defense Fund:

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs-campaigns/cradle-to-prison-pipeline/>

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People:

http://www.naacpldf.org/files/case_issue/PRRAC%20journal%20Jan_Feb%202011-%20Dismantling_the_School-to-Prison_Pipeline.pdf

American Bar Association:

<http://apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/childrights/content/articles/01-17-13-federal-spotlight-school-to-prison-pipeline.html>