

At the beginning of
Church School

Leader: We come together at the start of a new year of *Church School*, to recognize the importance of our *Church School* in our community. It is a place where young people learn the great stories of our faith and what it means to live for Jesus; it is a place where they learn to be more and more faithful to God; and it is a place where we build a stronger church.

Let us hear how Jesus welcomed children into his presence.

Matthew 19: 13-15 is read.

Let us make some promises to one another and before God, to show three things: how important we believe it is for our teachers to teach our children about the God who loves them so much; how important it is for our children to learn; and how important it is for those who care for them to bring them and support them as they grow in their faith.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The children stand and say with the leader:

We thank God for our *church school*, for the teachings of Jesus, and the vision of Christ's way. We will come to *church school* as often as we can and do our best, so that we may learn about God and be with the family that God has given us.

PARENTS AND CONGREGATION

The parents and the congregation stand and say with the leader:

We love our children. We will encourage them to live in the way of Christ. We will join with them in studying God's word. We will try our best to grow with them in faith, and we will support the work of our church school with our time, our talent, our treasure, and our prayers.

TEACHERS AND LEADERS

The teachers and leaders stand and say with the leader:

We will walk with God and with the children and youth of our congregation. We will work together and with God's help we will do our best to learn, to live, and to teach the way of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.

Dear God, today is the start of a new year of *church school*. We thank you for those who have answered the call to teach. Give them patience, wisdom, joy and love in all that they do in your name. We pray that you will bless them, and bless also those who learn, and those who care for our children. Help us all to honour the promises we have made today. Help us all to be ready to learn new things, and to be loving, truthful and caring in all that we do. Give us the gift of your Spirit that we might be a community of faith which shows the light of the gospel to all around. **Amen.**

The Leader concludes:

And now, Lord, send us out in the power of your spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory.