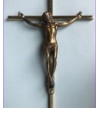




God Across Cultures: Our Roman Catholic Friends



We share a history with people who have loved and followed God. Our United Methodist, Protestant roots connect with Catholic roots. We share stories and beliefs of the Old and the New Testaments. We are all Christians.

Welcome: This is the Day

[At the word rejoice, put hands up and wiggle your fingers]

Leader: This is the day

All: This is the day

Leader: That the Lord has made.

All: That the Lord has made.

Leader: Let us rejoice

All: Let us Rejoice

Leader: And be glad in it.

All: And be glad in it.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. REPEAT



Greeting: Hello or Peace

Hallo HAH low (German)

CIAO Chow (Italian)

Hello (English)

Ni háo NEE how (Chinese)

Hola OH la (Spanish)

XinCháo Zin CHOW (Vietnamese)

Kamusta Kah MOOSE tah (Filipino)

Shalom! Sha LOME (Hebrew)

Salvete! Sahl WAY tay (Latin)

Habari Hah bar EE (Swahili)

American Sign Language see above

Boozhoo Boo ZHOO (Ojibwe)



Scripture: ...about Mary

Luke 1:28, 31, 35 (RSV Catholic Edition then RSV Protestant)

Catholic: And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

Protestant: And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you" . . .

Both: "You will conceive in your womb. You will bear a son. You will name him Jesus." . . . The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you" . . . "the child to be born will be Holy. He will be called the Son of God."



Sing: United Methodist Hymn 558 We are the Church

(See Music and Activity Page)



Scripture: Matthew 16:18

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. The powers of death shall not prevail against it. [show rocks]



Discuss:

Do you remember that the Christian church began at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples? As Christians we all believe God the Creator, God's Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit are ONE. We also believe Jesus died for our sins and was resurrected. Some customs and beliefs in the Methodist Church are different from the Roman Catholic church. Many are the same.

- We have similar customs. Protestants and Catholics go to church services on Sunday. We worship God, sing, have a sermon and pray. Sometimes Methodists have Communion. Roman Catholics have the same activities. But they center the service around Communion every Sunday. This is called _____.
- When Catholics enter the sanctuary, they bow or genuflect to the altar. This shows respect and honor to Jesus. Demonstrate how to genuflect.
- Before and after prayers, Catholics may make a sign of the Cross. Let's practice: "Father" [press right fingers to forehead]

“Son” [press right fingers to chest]

“Holy” [put fingers below right shoulder] “Spirit” [put fingers below left shoulder]

“Amen” [hands together]

- What is your favorite way or time to pray?
- Methodists respect Jesus’ mother Mary. Gabriel told her she was favored by God. Catholics believe she is Holy and say prayers to her. “Hail Mary full of grace...” Similar to prayer beads Muslims use, Catholics use a Rosary to pray to Mary.
- Methodists have Reverends, whom we call Pastor. The Reverends elect Bishops. Catholics have Priests, whom they call Father. The Priests elect Bishops who elect Cardinals, who with much prayer, elect the Pope. The Pope leads the Church.
- **Bonus:** What is different between Protestant crosses and Catholic crosses?



Pray: [do sign of cross]

Glory be to the Father, to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen

Song: United Methodist hymn #558 “We Are the Church”

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
All around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

We're many kinds of people,
With many kinds of faces,
All colors, skills and ages
With sharing of our graces | (Refrain)

And when the people gather,
There's singing and there's praying;
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes,

All of it saying: | (Refrain)

At Pentecost some people
Received the Holy Spirit
And told the Good News through the world
To all who would hear it. | (Refrain)

Activities: See and hear how people understand in different ways

Altar Materials: [a flat rock, 2 colors of paint, a brush or stickers, newspaper]
Start your altar with a rock. On your rock, paint words or an image that shows us 1
John 4:16a GOD IS LOVE.

Play telephone: one person say something to someone. Each person repeats to the next. Did the last person hear the same as the first? Like the Bible, it may be a bit different.

Before Next Time:

Pray. Before you pray, Make the Sign of the Cross. When you pray look up to God. Bow down in respect to God. Hold out arms to serve God. Put your hands together and say Amen.

Learn more:

Visit Chuck Knows Church: Communion, <https://chuckknowschurch.com/archive/24communion>
Communion is a sacrament in Methodist and Catholic churches. When we take communion, we remember Jesus and His Love. Catholics believe the wafer and wine physically become Jesus' body and blood. It is called "Transubstantiation."