**Psalter**: 310:1,2,3 - 73:1,2,5,6 - 420:5 - 4:1,2,3,4,5

**Scripture:** John 3: 22-36

**THEME: FAITH THAT BRINGS SALVATION**

1. Faith that unites with Christ

2. Faith that is grounded upon God’s Word

3. Faith that is expressed in the twelve articles of faith

**Questions for reflection and discussion**

1. Answer 20 speaks about “a true faith”. Apparently also other kinds of faith exist. What kind of faiths can you think of? Is it actually expedient or Biblical to say that there are different kinds of faith?
2. Only by a true faith we are *ingrafted* into Christ. Reflect upon that word ‘ingrafted’. What does it actually mean?
3. On the one hand, answer 20 uses *active* language: receive by true faith. On the other hand, it uses *passive* language: who “are ingrafted in Him”. Who is now at work here?
4. Question 21 is a key question in the HC. Without reading the answer, how would you answer the question “What is true faith”? How might someone answer this question who is not familiar with the HC?
5. The answer to question 21, can be summarised with two words: knowledge and trust. Take some time to meditate on these two descriptors. What exactly do they mean when we talk about faith? Would it be possible to believe when one of these two elements was missing?
6. Compare these articles from the Westminster Confession (1647) with the HC. Do you notice any similarities or differences?

**Chapter 14 Of saving faith**

1. The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word; by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.

2. By this faith a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which each particular passage thereof contains; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

3. This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed and weakened, but gets the victory; growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.