

Go in peace. The Lord has put away all your sin. BCP 448, 451

What is the Rite of Reconciliation (Sacramental Confession)? BCP 861

Two Forms of Rite of Reconciliation BCP 447, 449

What are some of the reasons people go to a priest to confess, seek counsel and ask for blessing and absolution in the Rite of Reconciliation?

Locked in regret or shame

Thinking their sins are too serious to be forgiven

Trapped in the idea that they have not suffered enough for their wrongdoings

Feeling lost or disconnected and cannot find their way back

Believing they do not feel enough regret, sorrow or guilt

No sure if what they have or have not done is sin

Stuck in unhealthy, self destructive or other destructive behavior

Just can't seem to get right with God or other people

Feeling a burden or weight on conscience, long held secrets

Afraid God is angry with them

Why do I keep thinking about the rite? Why is it unsettling?

Psalm 139

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.....
²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans. 8:26, 27 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

How can I possibly bring my sins before God and another human being?

Read Luke 15.11-32

Details: where does the Rite of Reconciliation take place? is it confidential?

BCP 446

After making a sacramental confession, what do I hope for?

BCP 861

Gal 5.22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

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2022 Rite of Reconciliation, The Rev. Debra Asis