**Thursday Harry Potter Outline**

7pm Gather, social time; butter beer, pumpkin juice, Bent Paddle, appetizers: ham and cheese envelopes; pretzel rods and cheese straws, Molly’s meatballs, string cheese on pretzel sticks, rock cakes, fudge, chocolate frogs, golden snitches, have ping pong quidditch set up, would you rather cards, music playing or clips on projector

7:15pm Names on back or drawing game

7:25pm Intro to faith in HP, called in baptism & getting letter- baptism video from Patricia

7:40pm Wand Making- types of wands in our lives, Church as Room of Requirement

7:55pm Go up to Room of Requirement- (Olcott room) Dementors Activity, making patronus charms, then whack dementors

8:15pm Mirror? Closing in Church- Resurrection

**INTRO**: JK Rowling’s books are not intentional Christian allegories like C.S. Lewis or J.R.R. Tolkien or Madeleine L’Engle; she allows the reader to respond to the power of sacrificial love made manifest in the lives of several characters. As Sirius Black says it best to Harry, “The world isn’t split into good people and Death Eaters. We’ve all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That’s who we really are.”

-That’s why Harry is not a Christ figure; he is Christ like in many ways. But if he were a Christ figure, he would be less of a role model for any of us. If he were anything near perfect as God in heaven is perfect, then he would not be a good example of a normal person trying to live a faithful life. Harry, (and Dumbledore) do many Christlike things, but they also do humanlike things, they can be selfish, prideful and most importantly broken. But again and again, they choose sacrificial love and choosing to die in order to ultimately live… versus Voldemort who seeks life over death at all costs.

**BAPTISM TALK:** The call of Harry/Our call that began in baptism

Jk Rowling, Joanne grew up in Tutshill, Wales, and her home named Church cottage sat alongside a graveyard near the Forest of Dean. At age nine, she started working on Saturdays cleaning the pews of St. Luke’s Anglican Church along with her 7 year old sister Di. The family was not religious, but Joanne was intrigued by the church, and obviously the church didn’t need 9 and 7 year olds to clean their pews, but they saw two young souls who were looking for something to do and perhaps looking for something more; it was a “sacred scheming to introduce and engage their spiritual curiosity.” You can come to the church to this day and find that the two of them signed their names in the guest registry every week. JK Rowling would sit in the pews with the light coming in the stained glass, she played among the pews and candles, and at age eleven presented herself for baptism= the exact age she chose for Harry to be called as well.

-Harry is called by creatures (owls) bringing him letters, calling him out of the closet under the stairs

-You don’t need a human being to be called, and no human being can stop it (his uncle tried and could not stop the letters coming no matter what he did)

God keeps sending the invitation, no matter what, even when the epic invitation is lost or unanswered, God keeps sending the invitation -PSALM 139 “you have searched me and you know me”

God calls us, and God called Jesus at his baptism “this is my Son, whom I love”

-Harry needs a whole community to raise him (at Hogwarts) just like a child needs a whole community to raise them; a church community to help raise them in faith

-wax seal on letter = sealed as Christ’s own forever with oil on our forehead = something that lets you know who you are and what is ahead for you

-Harry is marked on his forehead; we are marked on our forehead with a sign of the cross

-the font is a sign of dying to self and rising in Christ, Harry’s Hogwarts letter on his 11th birthday symbolizing JK’s and our own journey “into the font whose welcoming waters whisper that the last enemy to be defeated is death.” Tricia Lyons

-Show Baptism video <https://youtu.be/o93pt6YP6VE>

**Wands**

- Harry and the other students at Hogwarts depending on their wands to help them in life

-The wand chooses the holder, not the other way around.

*- They didn’t choose their wand, their wand chose them (if time to show wand scene, "The wand chooses the*[*wizard*](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wizardkind)*. That much has always been clear to those of us who have studied wandlore... If you are any wizard at all you will be able to channel your magic through almost any instrument. The best results, however, must always come where there is the strongest affinity between wizard and wand. These connections are complex. An initial attraction, and then a mutual quest for experience, the wand learning from the wizard, the wizard from the wand."*

*—[Mr Ollivander](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Garrick_Ollivander" \o "Garrick Ollivander)*[*[src]*](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Deathly_Hallows)

- wands give the holder of it power, could be used for good or evil; that depends on the holder of the wand (think Harry vs Voldemort)

-What are the wands in our lives? Smart phones (social media), credit and debit cards, guns, voter ID cards- they each have power that can be used for good or evil

* If you had a magic wand what would your life be like?

*I would never have to worry about money. Both for myself & my friends.*

*People would listen to me when I spoke & would take me seriously.*

*The world would value the work I do.*

*I’d no longer struggle with depression, anxiety, migraines or insomnia.*

*Or chronic back problems, GERD or HPV*.

* If you had a magic wand, what one problem would you change in the world?
* If you could wave a magic wand and create anything in your life, what would It be?
* If you had a magic wand, how would you instantly change our world/society?
* If you had a magic wand and could experience anything at all in your life, what would it be? (money is not an issue)

**Room of Requirement- defeating dementors and using your patronus charm**

* Here in the Room of Requirement- which is like the church at it’s best; church opens when you need it, it’s truth in community, place to learn and grow, prepares us for mission, teaches us how to form souls for shared and sacred missions
* Show video <https://youtu.be/U6syFzJNxDY>
* It is Dobby and Dumbledore; supreme teachers in love and freedom that reveal the room
* Dobby- “when it appears, it is always equipped for the seeker’s needs” – “at it’s best, the church can be a sacred space that is a gift we could not create or ultimately control, that opens up to those who are open to it; and that does not always offer what we want but always has what people truly need.” -Tricia Lyons
* A healthy church fills its space with resources discerned as food for the needs of the soul and the world. In the face of a socially unjust and broken world full of dark arts, the Room of Requirement is where souls form each other in the likeness of Christ to go out and be the light of Christ in the world

So here in this room, we will defeat dementors by using our patronus charm!

-Who has not wrestled with real dementors or demons in their life?

-‘*Dementors are among the foulest creatures that walk this earth. They infest the darkest, filthiest places, they glory in decay and despair, they drain peace, hope and happiness out of the air around them. Even Muggles feel their presence, though they can’t see them. Get too near a Dementor and every good feeling, every happy memory, will be sucked out of you. If it can, the Dementor will feed on you long enough to reduce you to something like itself – soulless and evil. You’ll be left with nothing but the worst experiences of your life.’ JK Rowling*

-varied are the ways we suffer as human beings, JK Rowling’s brilliance was in inventing a potent and palpable creature that readers recognize and immediately associate with their sufferings and struggles. Rowling’s foul hooded joy suckers put an image on our universal foes.

-we have all been in the valley of the shadow of death; and sometimes it incapacitates us; it did for JK Rowling. She battled depression as she lost her mother a few months after has began to write the Harry Potter series, had a distant father, traumatic early marriage, and endured single motherhood on welfare all by her midtwenties.

-Yet she weaves her own experience of resurrection into the stories and above all else, asks us to witness the power of love above all else, even death. And specifically sacrificial love that can conquer death.

-have this list on an easel (Have them write down on an index card those things that suck the joy and every happy memory out of them, tell them NOONE else will see the card)

A close up of a device

Description generated with high confidence

In a couple minutes we are going to Defeat our Dementors; literally, but before that we need to discover our personal Patronus Charm; the memories; Bible verses, people and images that carry us through hard times. At our darkest points, we can turn to considering the forces of light in our lives that have helped us fight back. The patronus charm symbolizes happiness, hope, and the warmth of love, all of these are positive emotions that can make you forget the negative emotions just like a patronus can fight a dementor. The spell is *Expecto Patronum*, it means ‘I wait for a guardian’.

-Hand out Chocolate frogs (The mood-enhancing properties of chocolate are well known in both the Muggle and wizard worlds. Chocolate is the perfect antidote for anyone who has been overcome in the presence of Dementors. Chocolate can only be a short-term remedy, however. Finding ways to fight off Dementors – or depression – are essential if one is to become permanently happier.)

-First write down on the opposite side of your card what the memories, verses, music, people, images, and actions are that have helped you cast aside the darkness and been a light for you. in small groups, as much as you would like, share an idea or thought of what has pulled you out of a period of darkness in your life. It’s not only good to be reminded of those, it just might help someone else too.

-Make their Patronus charm keychain or bracelet

-go to back of church and outside side door where dementor will be hanging; take their wands and use them to pick up a deflated volleyball that has a loop and hurl it at dementor; they will do it until the dementor is knocked over. Can say Expecto Patronum out loud and think of their Patronus silently or aloud. Others can cheer. Each person has the chance to do it; then walk back into church together and up the lighted center aisle to stand around the baptismal font for closing.

**Closing:**

-In the most significant scene related to Christian theology, Harry walks into the Forbidden Forest during the last Battle of Hogwarts. He pulls out the snitch, kisses it and says, “I am about to die.” And at that moment, the words written on the snitch become clear to him in a way they had not been before: “I open at the close.” And the Snitch indeed opens. The Resurrection Stone appears to him; a resource and reward for his vow to die for others. Harry’s willingness to die unlocks Resurrection, which makes possible the experience of seeing those who loved him to death=the great cloud of witnesses; who answer his question of “Why are you all here?” with “We never left.” Harry realizes that full communion with them comes only after death, so he drops the Stone and puts his faith in resurrection over immortality. No matter where or what we are seeking, God finds and feeds our longing to overcome death. We have the waters of baptism as a promise of God’s unconditional, always present, everlasting love.

**The Confrontation with Evil- up in church around baptismal font**

We confront evil (Voldemort)

Voldmort makes six statements and everyone responds from the Baptismal Covenant

With each affirmative answer, Voldemort loses power and shrinks (I’ll have 6 images of .Voldemort in stages of dying; will show them and rip each one up as we say the parts of Baptismal covenant)

Voldemort asks the following:

1. Come join me and I will make you powerful.

Bill: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

2. Come where the real power is, on the dark side.

Bill: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world, which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

All: I renounce them.

3. I can give you powers to satisfy your every wish.

Bill: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the Love of God?

All: I renounce them.

4. You are mine, I made my mark on you with that lightning bolt.

Bill: Do you turn to Jesus Christ as your Savior and be marked as Christ’s own forever?

All: I will turn to Christ.

5. Don't be a fool, join me, only I can save you.

Bill: Do you put your whole trust in Jesus' Grace and Love?

All: I put my trust in Jesus.

6. I can make you immortal if you just give me the Resurrection stone.

Bill: You have been freely given everlasting life through the Resurrection of Jesus.

Are you going to promise to follow Jesus?

All: I will follow Jesus!

### Split group in two and say aloud together alternately

### Psalm 139

**1**You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.  
**2**You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

**3**You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.  
**4**Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

**5**You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.  
**6**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

**7**Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?  
**8**If I go up to the heavens, you are there, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

**9**If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
**10**even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

**11**If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,”  
**12**even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day,  
    for darkness is as light to you.

**13**For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
**14**I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful,  
    I know that full well.

Blessing and Song

Hand out for everyone is below

CLOSING PRAYER **Please gather around the baptismal font as we confront evil with the waters of Baptism and Light of Jesus.**

Voldemort asks the following: 1. Come join me and I will make you powerful.

Bill: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**All: I renounce them.**

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Bill: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world, which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

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6. I can make you immortal if you just give me the Resurrection stone.

Bill: You have been freely given everlasting life through the Resurrection of Jesus.

Are you going to promise to follow Jesus?

**All: I will follow Jesus!**

### We will recite Psalm 139 together; in two groups alternating

**1**You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.  
**2**You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

**3**You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.  
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Blessing and Song