

Anglicanism 101

What it means to be
Anglican/Episcopalian

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

Fall, 2007

Anglicanism 101

- Identity
- Authority
- English Reformation
- Book of Common Prayer
- A New American Church
- Emphases:
 - Community
 - Pastoral/Spiritual Care
 - Mission/Work of the Church

Week 1

Identity:

Who/what are we?

Who/what are we not?

What Anglicanism is not...

(less emphasis)

- Confessional
- Doctrinal
- Dogmatic
- Systematic

What Anglicanism is...

- A “unique way of looking, making sense, and acting in the experience of God disclosed to us in the person of Jesus Christ...”

– Urban Holmes

- Both catholic and protestant...
 - Catholic sacramental theology
 - Protestant focus on Scripture
- And more....

What it is....

(continued)

- Ambiguous
 - *Via media* - middle way between extremes
 - Tension between unresolved issues
- Comprehensive
 - Community of thought vs. definitive position

What it is...

(continued)

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- Sacramental, mystical
 - God as loving, caring, open
 - Not judgmental, rigid
 - Incarnational
 - The love of God expressed in ordinary things
 - Ordinary things raised to a higher level
 - Use of “real” bread, wine, flowers, etc. whenever possible
 - Finding God in the ordinariness of life
 - “Extraordinary shines through the ordinary”
 - Often artistic
 - Liturgy, poetry, music, life
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Basic Anglican Understandings

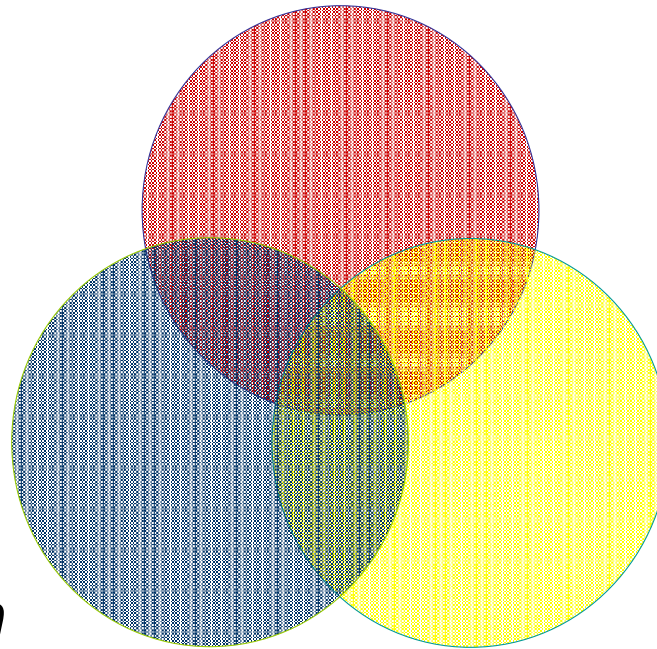
- We ***PRAY*** together, in the vernacular/s of the community
- In communion with Canterbury, worldwide
- Use of some descendant of the Book of Common Prayer (usually)
- “via media” = middle way between extremes
 - Elizabethan Settlement (Elizabeth I, 1559):
“I will not make windows into men’s souls”

Anglican Authority

- Recognizes and values relationships
 - Differences, otherness contribute to celebration of God's Creation
- Provides liturgical grounding for mission
 - More than worship, but worship most important community event
- Authority comes from God, not humans
 - Calls for power-sharing relationships everywhere in church and society
 - Clergy, bishops, Archbishop of Canterbury not "in control" of others, but "in communion with"

Anglican Authority: “Three-Legged Stool”

1. Scripture



2. Tradition

3. Reason

Some add *Experience*

All interacting

Sources

- ❑ Edwards, David. *What Anglicans Believe*. Cincinnati: Forward Movement, 1996.
- ❑ Holmes, Urban T. III. *What Is Anglicanism?* Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 1982.
- ❑ Howe, Bp. John. *Our Anglican Heritage*. Elgin, IL: Cook, 1977.
- ❑ Hein, David, and Shattuck, Gardiner H. Jr. *The Episcopalians*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.
- ❑ Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, available at <http://www.episcopal-dso.org/>