

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 6

- Community
- Work of the Church
- Pastoral and Spiritual Care Emphasis
- Mission and Witness

Community

- In community the Spirit is present
 - *“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them” (Mat 18:20)*
- Liturgy, emphasis, focus vary from one community to another
 - BCP is beginning, not total, liturgical planning tool

Pastoral Care Emphasis

- Sharing God's Word and love to all
 - Integrated, in all areas of life, birth to death
 - Not segregated into sacred/profane
 - Awakening new awareness, repentance
 - Sacramental: slow transformation of life
 - "Marinated" rather than "brushed on" (Holmes)
 - Personal presence of priest in community
 - Not simply dispensing sacraments

Pastoral Care Emphasis

(continued)

- Sacramental opportunities:
 - **Reconciliation:** “All may, none must, some should”
 - **Unction/healing:** Draws upon God’s desire that we may be whole
 - **Christian Marriage:** Joining together in God’s name
 - **Christian Burial:** Easter/Resurrection emphasis

Spirituality

- Emphasis on Mysticism vs. Pietism
 - Not as far as occult: “darker side”
 - Pietism: individualistic, quietism
 - Grounded in church and liturgy
- Four aspects:
 - **Earthy**: power of the natural
 - Grows out of **sacraments** rooted in earth (water, bread, wine)
 - Persistence, rootedness, enduring
 - Draws on **biblical** imagery
 - **Collaborative**
 - Tension between collective truth and individual insight

Mission: *“sending”*

- Activity of the whole church, not individuals
 - Not to seek “conversion experience” but to understand life and culture fulfilled in Christ
 - “Partners in (God’s) Mission” – all have gifts to share
 - Identification and participation with people and culture
 - Mission includes education
 - Awareness of forgiveness, new life in Christ
 - Learning = overcoming fears
 - Inviting, sharing learning with others in all of life

Prophetic Witness

- Call to rise above injustice
- Speak boldly to unjust power
- Greater Power than state
 - Church does not serve the state
 - State does not serve the church
- Focus on God's future Reign and what the Church can do to work toward it

Sources

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