

A mosaic of Jesus Christ's face is the central focus, set against a golden background. In the top right corner, a portion of a flag is visible, featuring a red cross on a white field with a blue canton containing white crosses.

Christianity in Episcopal Tints

A black silhouette of an Episcopal cross is overlaid on the left side of the image. The cross has a central circle containing a smaller cross. The words "ANGLICAN" and "EPISCOPAL" are written around the inner circle, and "THE CROSS" is written at the bottom.

5. Ministry and Organization. The Church's Mission

ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS
Episcopal Church • White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Amazing Love

Christianity in Episcopal Tints

Introduction

- n Where did the Episcopal Church come from?
- n What does it believe?
- n How does it worship and why?
- n How does it understand the Bible and God?
- n How does it reach out to the rest of the world?
- n In this broken world – where the followers of Jesus are fractured into many denominations – what positive role does the Episcopal Church play?

Christianity in Episcopal Tints

Introduction

- n **1:** Our History
- n **2:** Our Worship
- n **3:** The Church's Teaching and the Bible
- n **4:** Spirituality
- n **5:** Ministry and Organization. The Church's Mission.

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

For the Mission of the Church,
Book of Common Prayer, p. 816-817



Today: Ministry and Organization. The Church's Mission



Outline

- n 1. What is the Church?
 - n 1.1. Wherever Christ Is, There is the Catholic Church
 - n 1.2. How is Christ Present in the Church?
 - n 1.3. The Visible vs. the Invisible Church
 - n 1.4. The Notes or Marks of the Church

Outline

- n 2. Ministry
 - n 2.1. The General Ministry vs. the Special Ministries
 - n 2.2. The General Ministry of the People of God
 - n 2.3. The Special Ministries

Outline

n 3. Organization

n 3.1. The Parish Church

n 3.2. The Diocese

n 3.3. The National Church

n 3.4. The Worldwide Anglican Communion

Outline

- n 4. Mission

 - n 4.1. Foreign Missions

What is the Church?



What is the Church?

- n “wherever Christ is, there is also the catholic church”
- n Ignatius of Antioch, 1st century.

How is Christ Present in the Church?

- n Christ is present – but *in what way?* *How* is Christ present?
- n “wherever Christ *is*, there is also the catholic church”
- n “*is*” in what way? What kind of presence?
- n Two views:
 - n Christ is present through **the proclamation of the Word of God**.
 - n Christ is **present sacramentally**.
 - n The Church itself can be viewed as a “sacrament”, a window or door to the divine, to God.

Through the Proclamation of the Word

- n Christ is present in the church through **the proclamation of the Word**.
- n The church is the community that *comes into being* wherever the word of God is faithfully proclaimed and received.
- n “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).
- n This sense of the church implies the church is fundamentally *an “event”*:
 - n the “institution” of the church is secondary / incidental.
- n This sense of the church is dominant in most of Protestantism.

Present in the Church Sacramentally

- n Christ is present in the church **sacramentally**. The church is a sacrament of Christ, or like a sacrament; that is:
 - n The church is the *visible and historical sign* of Christ present in the world.
 - n The church is the visible “prolongation” or “extension” of Christ in time and space.
- n The church is thus the community of people in the world and in history (= in space and time) who are in communion with God
- n This sense of the church implies the “*institution*” of the church itself has a *fundamental* importance (although not its particular structure).
- n This sense of the church is dominant in Roman Catholicism.

“Event” and “Institution”

- n Anglicanism embraces *both* senses of the Church:
 - n 1. The church is an “*event*”; the community that *comes into being* wherever the word of God is faithfully proclaimed and received.
 - n 2. The church is a *sustained, living presence in space and time*, the community of people in the world and in history (= an “institution” existing in space and time) who are in communion with God.

“Event” and “Institution”

n Or to summarize:

n **Anglicism** believes the church is *both* an “*event*” and an “*institution*”:

n an “*event*” in which the word of God is being proclaimed,

n an “*institution*” which lives in the world and in history as the visible sign or sacrament of Christ.

“Event” and “Institution”

- n By affirming the Church as that place where Christ is present *both* **sacramentally** and **in the Word**, the **Anglican church** believes:
 - n The Church is the People of God:
 - n the new people of God continuous with Israel.
 - n The Church is Communion or Fellowship:
 - n who share a common life:
 - n between God and each believer
 - n between individual believers

Visible vs. Invisible Church

- n Theologians have asked if the true church is the **“Visible” church** or the **“Invisible” church**.
- n The **Invisible Church** is the church whose members are:
 - n people who are / will be saved, the “elect.”
 - n people who are thus known only to God.
- n The **Visible Church** is the church whose members are:
 - n people distinguished by outward signs of baptism, affirmation of a creed, participation in the Eucharist,
 - n a community of fallible, imperfect, flawed human beings.

Visible vs. Invisible Church

n Article XIX of the Anglican **Articles of Religion** (also known as the **39 Articles**) affirms that Anglicans hold that the true church is the **Visible Church**.

Notes or Marks of the Church

- n The “notes” or “marks” of the Church are:
 - n **One,**
 - n **Holy,**
 - n **Catholic,**
 - n **Apostolic.**

One

- n The church should be **One**.
- n Today, unity that we can affirm includes:
 - n A theological unity: “where Christ is, there is also the church;”
 - n A “biological” or “organic” unity: the historical evolution of the church can be likened to the development of the branches of a tree (today there are *many individual branches*, but it is still a *single tree*).

One

- n However, we must also acknowledge the disunity, the fragmentation in the church:
 - n social,
 - n cultural,
 - n organizational.
- n We often cannot even share the Eucharist together.

Holy

- n **Holy** means being set apart *by God for God*.
- n There is no mention in the New Testament of “institutional holiness.”
- n The only holiness is the **holiness of the individual**. Therefore: the church can be holy only to the degree that the individuals making it up are holy.

Holy

- n Since all individuals are also sinful, we must say:
 - n The community of the church is both **holy** and **sinful** at the same time.
 - n The church is part of the battlefield between God's Spirit and evil in the world.
- n The battlefield front runs:
 - n through the holy church and the unholy world, and
 - n through the middle of each human heart.

Catholic

- n **Catholic** is a word referring to the universal, total, entire church, as distinct from just the local church.
- n A **catholic church** is a community *concerned with* the whole, universal, world-wide church.
- n “Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, Chapter One, in paragraph 19)

Apostolic

- n To say the church is **Apostolic** is to say *each member* of the church is called to live in accord with the **testimony of the apostles**.
- n **Apostolicity** is the unbroken continuity in essential belief and practice between the church today and the church founded by Christ through the apostles.
 - n This continuity is expressed by calling the bishops the successors of the apostles, = in **“apostolic succession.”**

Ministry



Ministry

- n We can distinguish *two* facets of ministry:
 - n The **General Ministry** of the people of God
 - n The **Special Ministries or Orders** (“**The Holy Orders**”):
 - n Bishops,
 - n Presbyters or Priests,
 - n Deacons.

General Ministry of the People of God

- n The **General Ministry** of the people of God is the continuation of the work of Christ (St. Paul called this the work of reconciliation):
 - n service to fellow human beings,
 - n proclamation and witness,
 - n sacrifice and self-giving.
- n The *whole* church (membership through baptism) is a royal priesthood and kingdom of priests (I Peter 2:5,9, Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6).
- n **Mission** is the outgoing, expanding aspect of **ministry**.

Special Ministries

- n By the early second century a *threefold* ministry had been defined in the church:
 - n a **bishop** in each town,
 - n a **presbyter** in charge of each house church,
 - n **deacons** assisting.

Special Ministries

- n By the third century, **apostolic succession** was documented in writings attributed to theologian Hippolytus (170-235 AD):
 - n **bishops** ordained by other bishops,
 - n **presbyters** ordained by bishops with assistance of other presbyters,
 - n **deacons** ordained by bishops alone.
- n **Presbyters** were called **priests** by the mid third century.

Special Ministries

- n The **Specific Ministries** of the clergy are ministries which the clergy accept *in addition to* the **General Ministry** that they and every Christian accept.
- n The clergy are the “guardian of the word and sacraments”. They must:
 - n faithfully proclaim the word,
 - n faithfully administer the sacraments.

Special Ministries

- n Their **Special Ministries** involves:
 - n an *inner* call,
 - n supplemented by *outward* call of the Church (selection, recommendation).
- n The *inward* and *outward* calls are “completed” in ordination by a bishop, a sacramental act involving:
 - n a divine dimension = the “conferring of grace,”
 - n a new way of being in the Church.

Organization



“Church” Membership

- n From the Prayer Book: “The Church is the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members.”
- n By Canon Law, **membership** in a particular Episcopal church requires:
 - n **baptism** in the Episcopal Church, or
 - n baptism in another church, with that baptism recorded in the Episcopal Church.
- n **Communicant Members** of a particular Episcopal church are members who have received communion at least 3 times in previous year.

Governance of the Parish

n The **Rector**:

- n The clergy leader of the church.
- n Duties are:
 - n to conduct Church services,
 - n to teach the faith.

n The **Vestry**:

- n The lay leadership of the church.
- n Includes senior officers, called **Wardens**, elected by the parish or by the Vestry.
- n Duties are to manage the finances and the property of the church.

Annual Parish Meeting

- n The **Annual Parish Meeting**:
 - n Elects the **Vestry**,
 - n Accepts the report of **Rector**,
 - n Accepts the report of **Wardens**,
 - n Accepts the treasurer's report.

Choosing Clergy Leadership

- n The procedure for choosing a **Rector**:
 - n Search Committee formed.
 - n **Vestry** with advice of bishop chooses an interim priest.
 - n National Church and local diocese provides names of priests to Search Committee.
 - n Resumes area reviewed, interviews conducted.
 - n Recommendation made to the **Vestry**.
 - n The **Vestry** elects the new priest.
 - n The **Bishop** must approve the selection.

Removing Clergy Leadership

- n Removing Clergy Leadership is possible only with:
 - n due cause, and
 - n the bishop's consent.

Rectors versus Vicars

- n If a parish is self-supporting, the priest is called a **“rector”** (Latin for “ruler”: he or she presides or “rules” over **Vestry** Meetings).
- n If a parish is a non self-supporting congregations (“missionary congregations”), the priest is called a **“vicar”** (one who represents another [the bishop]).

The Diocese

- n A **diocese** can range in size from ~20 parishes to nearly 200 parishes.
- n The diocese provides:
 - n resources and guidance to its parishes,
 - n means of working in common mission.
- n Each parish is assessed certain monetary amount to pay for the work of the diocese.

The Bishop and Diocesan Council

- n The work of a **diocese** is directed by a **Bishop** and a **Diocesan Council**.
- n Together, they administer the budget and programs of the diocese.

The Annual Convention

- n Each diocese holds an **Annual Convention**.
- n Delegates include:
 - n lay delegates from each parish,
 - n all priests.
- n The **Annual Convention**:
 - n adopts yearly budget and programs,
 - n elects the **Diocesan Council**,
- n All votes on important issues and the election of individuals requires approval by:
 - n a majority of the lay delegates *and*
 - n a majority of the clergy delegates.

Other Bishops in a Diocese

- n Other bishops in a diocese might include:
 - n **Suffragans** - additional bishops elected to assist diocesan bishop.
 - n **Assisting Bishop** – a clergy who is already a bishop who is appointed by diocesan bishop to assist him/her.
 - n **Coadjutor** - a bishop elected to serve with a retiring bishop in the interim period.

Selection of a New Bishop for a Diocese

- n Steps in the Selection of New **Bishop**:
 - n A Nominating Committee is formed.
 - n A Special Diocesan Convention is held. This Convention:
 - n includes all priests of the diocese,
 - n includes lay delegates from each parish.
 - n The winning candidate must have majority vote of all the clergy and all the laity.
 - n The election of bishop must then have the approval of a majority of the other dioceses of the National Church.
 - n Each new bishop is consecrated by *at least three other bishops*, as required at **Council of Nicaea** 325 A.D.

The National Church

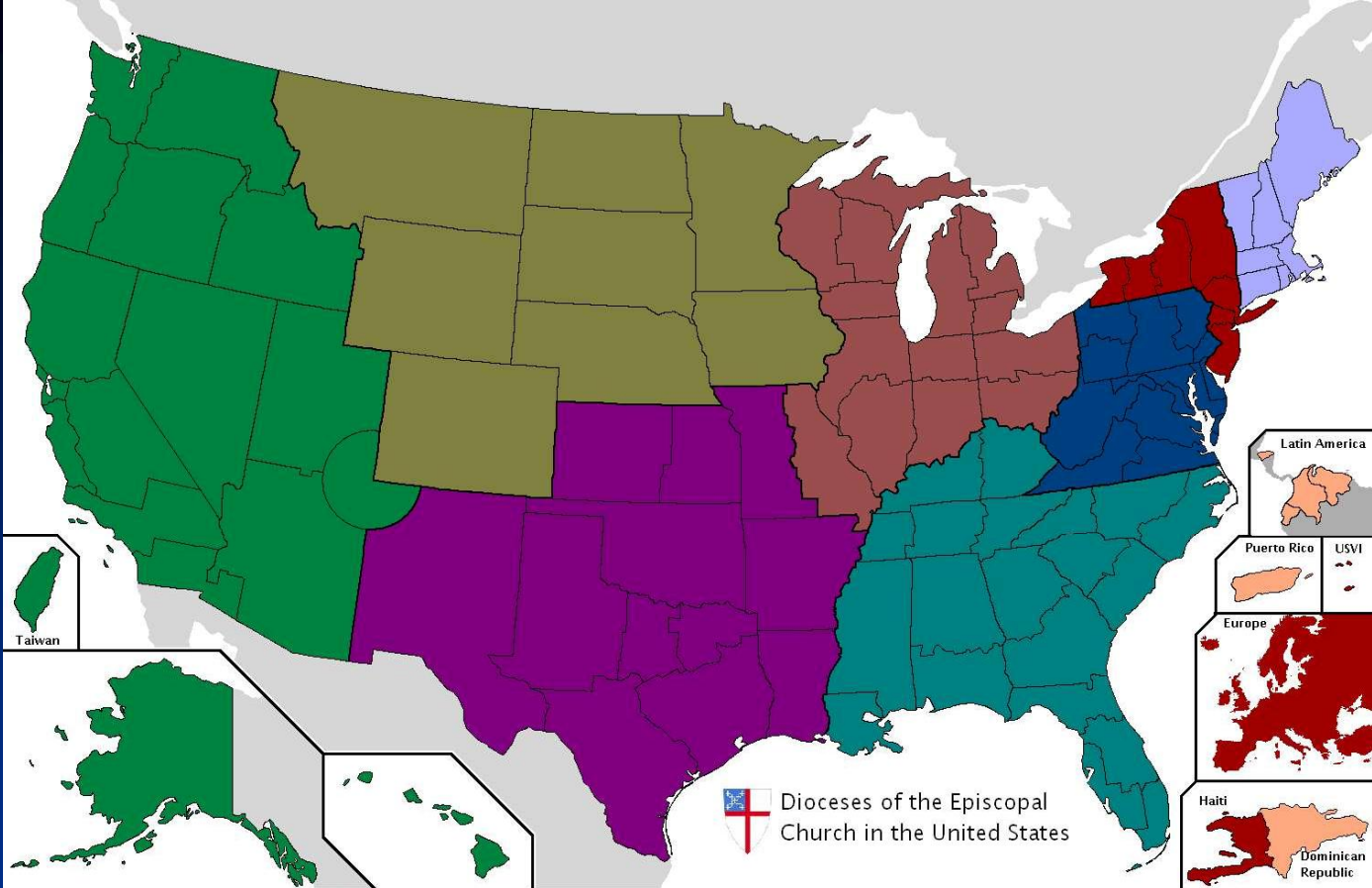
- n **The Episcopal Church** is the American province of the worldwide **Anglican Communion**. It consists of:
 - n 99 dioceses in the United States proper,
 - n 10 dioceses in other countries or outlying U.S. territories,
 - n the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe,
 - n a Bishop for the Armed Services and Federal Ministries.

The National Church

- n Overseas **dioceses** include:
 - n Virgin Islands,
 - n Haiti,
 - n Taiwan,
 - n Colombia,
 - n Dominican Republic,
 - n Central Ecuador,
 - n Litoral Ecuador,
 - n Honduras,
 - n Puerto Rico,
 - n Venezuela.

The National Church

- n The **dioceses** are organized into 9 **provinces**:
 - n **Province II** includes the Diocese of Haiti, the Diocese of the Virgin Islands, and the Convocation of American Churches in Europe.
 - n **Province VIII**, includes Episcopal dioceses of Navajoland Area Mission and Taiwan
 - n **Province IX** is comprised of seven Episcopal dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Central Ecuador, Litoral Ecuador, Honduras, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela.



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|---|-------------|---|------------|
|  | Province I |  | Province II |  | Province III |  | Province IV |  | Province V |
|  | Province VI |  | Province VII |  | Province VIII |  | Province IX | | |

Governance of the National Church

- n The work of the National Church is directed by:
 - n the **Presiding Bishop** and
 - n the **Executive Council**.
- n They are each elected through a **General Convention**.
 - n Term for the **Presiding Bishop** is 9 years.

The Presiding Bishop

- n The **Presiding Bishop** is:
 - n The chief pastor and executive of the Anglican church in the US, **The Episcopal Church**.
 - n Charged to “speak God’s words to the Church and to the world, as the representative of this Church and its episcopate in its corporate capacity.”
 - n Must visit every diocese during his or her tenure.
 - n Consults with bishops and diocesan representatives.

General Convention

- n A **General Convention** of the Episcopal Church is:
 - n Held every three years.
 - n Elects **Presiding Bishop** (if the Presiding Bishop's 9 year term is ending) and the **Executive Council**.
- n Two Houses:
 - n **House of Bishops** (all bishops),
 - n **House of Deputies** (four lay members and four clergy from each diocese).
- n Adopts the budget, and resolutions on matters of concern to church.

Worldwide Anglican Communion

- n The member churches or provinces of the worldwide **Anglican Communion** each began from a “Church of England” established:
 - n in former colonies of the British empire, or
 - n through missionary work in non-colonial countries.

Archbishop of Canterbury

- n The **Archbishop of Canterbury**, head of the Church of England, is:
 - n the symbolic head of the **Anglican Communion**,
 - n “first among equals” among Anglican primates (= leaders of each of the Anglican Communion provinces / national churches),
 - n the “focus of unity” for the “**Instruments of Communion**” of the Anglican Communion.

Four Instruments of Communion

- n The four **“Instruments of Communion”** in the Anglican Communion:
 - n 1. **Archbishop of Canterbury** (the “focus of unity” for the other three instruments)
 - n 2. The **Lambeth Conference**
 - n 3. **Primates Meetings**
 - n 4. **Anglican Consultative Council**

Lambeth Conference

- n In 1867, the first **Lambeth Conference** was held at the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Palace. 87 bishops attended. Since then, a **Lambeth Conference** has been held *every ten years* (except during WWII).
- n A **Lambeth Conference** is for “conferring,” not “legislating.” Statements are issued on *consensus* opinions.
- n Each national church remains free to make its own decisions about common life within its church.
 - n However Resolution 11 of the 1978 Lambeth Conference states that no individual province should take action on major issues without first consulting the **Lambeth Conference** or a **Primates meeting**.

Lambeth Conference

- n About 800 bishops attended the **1998 Lambeth Conference**.
- n About 670 bishops attended the **2008 Lambeth Conference**.
 - n over 200 bishops boycotted this Conference to express their concern and disagreement over the American Province's decision to ordain as bishop a person in a same-sex relationship.
- n The **2018 Lambeth Conference** has apparently been postponed by current (105th) Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby until he can be reasonably certain the vast majority of bishops will attend.

Primates Meetings

- n Established in 1978 by 101st Archbishop of Canterbury Donald Coggan as an opportunity for “leisurely thought, prayer, and deep consultation” among the leaders (“primates”) of each province of the Anglican Communion.
- n Most recent meetings:
 - n 2011: Dublin, Ireland
 - n 2009: Alexandria, Egypt
 - n 2007: Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
 - n 2005: Dromantine, Ireland
 - n 2003: Lambeth Palace, England

Anglican Consultative Council

- n Most representative body of gathered Anglicans, includes bishops, priests, laity, and religious.
- n Its president is the **Archbishop of Canterbury**.
- n Provides regular consultation between members of the Communion.
- n Meetings are held in various provinces, by invitation, every 2-3 years. Most recent meetings:
 - n 2012: Auckland, New Zealand
 - n 2009: Kingston, Jamaica
 - n 2005: Nottingham, England
 - n 2002: Hong Kong

Mission



Foreign Missions

- n As Anglican churches around the world have grown independent, the character of foreign missionary work out of the American Episcopal Church has changed.
- n Currently, the **Mission Personnel Office** of The Episcopal Church offers volunteer lay and ordained people a chance “to enter into relationships with people outside national and cultural borders and to nurture worldwide partnerships.”
- n Volunteers include doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants, agriculturalists, computer technicians, administrators, theologians, and communicators.

Foreign Missions

- n 46 persons are currently on the mission roster, working in:
 - n Brazil, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador,
 - n Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Jerusalem,
 - n Kenya, Mozambique, Panama, Philippines, Qatar,
 - n Romania, South Africa, Tanzania, Uruguay.