

Our Anglican Beliefs

We are an inclusive, vibrant church that offers a modern expression of ancient Christian traditions. Anglicanism blends the best of both catholic and protestant traditions while remaining open to new directions from the Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Church separated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1534 but kept most of its catholic beliefs. Like the Roman Catholic Church, we have:

- Bishops in an unbroken line of succession from St. Peter;
- Deacons and priests;
- seven sacraments (baptism, holy communion, confirmation, anointing, ordination, marriage and reconciliation);
- weekly Sunday worship with holy communion;
- monks and nuns.

Since we separated during the Protestant Reformation, however, we have incorporated the best of protestant beliefs, including:

- emphasizing a direct relationship between God and the believer;
- allowing our clergy to marry or be single, as God calls them;
- worshipping and reading the Bible in the language of the people;
- sharing church governance between the people and the clergy;
- deriving authority from a balance of
 - the Bible
 - church traditions
 - human reason guided by the Holy Spirit

The modern Episcopal Church also allows:

- divorce and the remarriage of divorced people in the church;
- LGBY equality
- clergy to be male or female (in fact, many of our nuns are priests!);
- any baptized person to take communion, including children

We put a strong emphasis on spiritual formation, so each person can

- discover his/her gifts and offer them to God in service;
- become closer to God through prayer and worship