

Episcopalian 101

Class 1: Anglican Identity and the Christian Life

(From John Westerhoff's book, *A People Called Episcopalians*)

May 3, 2021

1. Opening Prayer – BCP 254 (*at Confirmation*)
2. What does *Episcopal* mean?
 - a. *Episcopos* – overseer – Timothy 3:1 (“Who ever aspires to the office of bishop (overseer) desires a noble task.”) WEC-pg.2
3. How do we describe ourselves?
 - a. **Biblical** (lessons on Sundays, BCP, a source of authority)
 - b. **Traditional**/Creedal:
 - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic
 - One—in Communion with Canterbury, 38 other branches of Anglican Communion in the world
 - Holy—Set apart, founded by God, not people
 - catholic – universal
 - Apostolic –
 - Liturgical (liturgy means ‘the work of the people’)
 - Common Worship over Common Belief
 - Liturgy: *the work of the people*
 - Praying shapes believing – if you want to know about us, pray with us—our beliefs are in our prayers.
 - a. Practice not theory
 - b. *Baptismal Covenant* (BCP 304-305)
 - Book of Common Prayer—Common (*not ordinary, but in common*)
 - c. **Reason**-able/Intellectual: God gave us minds & we use them
 - we not only think, but we can think about our thinking
4. A Word about Authority:
 - Authority and Power are from God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - In other words, Jesus Christ is Lord--ultimate authority rests with him, not in the church, not even in the Bible.
 - The Bible is part of the equation, not the lone and final solution
 - a. women’s ordination
 - b. inclusion of gay and lesbian people, including marriage
 - c. divorce

5. First Myth to shake: Henry the VIII did NOT start the Church of England
but Edward VII (1547) and Elizabeth (1558–1603)

Henry VIII and the Act of Supremacy 1534

Henry wished to divorce Katherine of Aragon as he was conscious that the Old Testament forbade a man from lying with his brother's wife. Henry saw his lack of male heir by Katherine as a judgement from God as to his sinfulness.

The first discussions concerning the subject had taken place in secret in May 1527 but, by July 1529, the Pope had declared that the matter could only be settled in Rome. After further inquiries, Clement VII refused to grant permission for divorce, so Henry began the process of a split with the Catholic Church.

In May 1533, his marriage to Katherine was annulled - although, the previous January, he had bigamously (and secretly) married Anne Boleyn. Aided by his new chief administrator, Thomas Cromwell, Henry was confirmed as 'Supreme Head of the Church of England' following a parliamentary Act of Supremacy in November 1534.

6. After the American Revolution – a new church forms

- a. Democratic structure – House of Bishops, House of Deputies (clergy & laity)
- b. our own prayer book of 1789 – both English and Scottish (WEC, pg.8-9)
- c. Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (BCP 876) and WEC-pg.13
- d. The Oxford Movement, WEC-pg.15
 - high-church, low-church, broad church
- e. Prayer Book editions
 - England 1549, 1552, 1559, 1604, 1662
 - United States: 1789, 1892, 1928, 1979
- f. Recent Hymnals: 1940, 1982

7. Eucharist and Baptism

- a. Holy Communion every Sunday
- b. The Baptismal Covenant

Early Church History (pre-Reformation)

1. BC—Jewish History

2. Jesus' Ministry

3. Apostolic Church (Acts of the Apostles)

- Spread of the Gospel to Gentiles, throughout Mediterranean
- Emperor Nero had Christians killed in Rome in 64 AD
- 66–70 AD, Jewish rebellion in Judea, Temple destroyed
- Until about 110–120 AD

4. Patristic Church (time of Church Fathers)

- Tertullian, Cyprian, Irenaeus, and other pillars of the early church
- still, a time of martyrs, until...
- Battle of Mulvian Bridge, 312 AD—Constantine new Roman emperor; an imperial church was born
- Bible agreed upon in 367–382 AD (Jerome's Bible by his death in 420)
- Four Oecumenical Councils
 - **Nicaea in 325** (dealt with heresy of Arian controversy; Jesus not eternal, but created)
 - The Nicene Creed is made to define orthodox belief in Jesus.
 - **Constantinople in 381** (dealt with heresy of Apollinarianism; Jesus not fully human in body, soul and spirit because human spirit replaced by divine.)
 - The Nicene Creed is revised to define Orthodox belief.
 - **Ephesus in 431** (dealt with heresy of Nestorianism: Jesus not human/divine in one, but two separate beings; an adopted man made divine, of sorts)
 - **Chalcedon in 451** (Monophysitism: really just one, divine nature, the divine; his humanity like a drop of water in the sea of divinity)

The Chalcedonian definition of Christ: "Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, or Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting of a reasonable soul and body; **of one substance (homoousios)** with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin, as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer (theotokos); one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest time spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the Fathers has handed down to us."

Britain

- Bishopricks in London by 300
- 1st Christian missionaries retreat West after Rome pulls out in 400
- Celtic Christianity takes root; Rome returns in the person of Augustine of Canterbury in 597

5. **Western and Eastern Church grow apart** and finally split in **1054** over papal claims to infallibility and creedal differences (Holy Spirit proceeds from Father *and the Son*. West said *and the Son*; East said only from the Father).
6. **Investiture Controversy, 1122** (Concordat of Worms)
 - Who would invest bishops and abbots with power? King or Pope?
7. **Crusades** in 1095 and 1145 (Taking back the Holy Land from the Turks)
8. **Jerusalem Falls to the Turks, 1187**
9. **Crusade** in 1204 and 1217...last Crusade in 1270??
10. **Decree of Transubstantiation, 1213** at the Fourth Lateran Council
11. **Doctrine of Papal Supremacy, 1302**
12. **The Spanish Inquisition, 1497, under Ferdinand and Isabella**
13. **European Reformation**
 - a. politics, art, episcopate, celibacy, superstition, transubstantiation, Latin Bible and prayers vs. native tongue, indulgences (payments for forgiveness of sin)
 - b. Luther in Germany, 95 Theses on door at Wittenburg, October 31, 1517. He died in 1546
 - c. Zwingli in Zurich (1484-1581)
 - d. Calvin in Geneva (1509–1564)
 - e. England (see)

A Brief Time line of the Anglican/Episcopal Church in America

- 1579 The chaplain of Sir Francis Drake's around-the-world trip led a service out of the Prayer Book on the shores of San Francisco Bay.
- 1587 August 18th Virginia Dare of Roanoke Virginia was the first person in North America to be baptised using the service from the Book of Common Prayer.
- 1607 The first christian worship services in Jamestown was conducted by an Anglican priest, Rev. Robert Hunt, on Pentecost.
- 1607 First Permanent congregation in Jamestown; Pocahontas baptized
This was a state-sponsored church, supported by taxes
- 1611 *The King James Bible is first published*
- 1693 Anglican Church "established" in NY, really what we'd call NYC
King's College begun as Anglican college (now Columbia University),
though William and Mary was first Anglican College in the Colonies
- 1700 by this year, there were 100 churches from MA to SC: 80% by the Chesapeake Bay
- 1704 *The Scottish Episcopal Church is formed.*
- 1750 Growth in New England of Episcopal church: 44 congregations reported there
- 1776 **EC the 2nd largest denomination in the Colonies (behind the Congregationalists)**
400 Congregations and 300 clergy
Theology of the church
- **known for free will and practical godliness (not emotionalism)**
 - **Pulpit, baptismal font, and holy table central in churches**
 - **Eucharist infrequent; services usually conducted entirely from the pulpit**
 - **Episcopalians preferred non-itinerant, seminary educated clergy**
 - **Sunday schools unknown**
 - **no processions, crosses, hangings, candles and colors**
- Clergy: ordination given in England; 10 died returning to England for ordination
 - No bishop in the colonies;
 - an estimated 45% of clergy supported the Revolutionary cause
 - 50% of those signing the Declaration of Independence were Anglicans
 - Thomas Jefferson served on the vestry of St. Anne's in Virginia
- After the Revolutionary War (4/19/1775 – 9/3 1783), the church was disestablished***
- In the **South**, more low church or "evangelical."
 - In the **North**, more High Church or "Anglo Catholic"
 - Protestant Episcopal church began its separate existence, determined to preserve its Anglican heritage but also committed to the new American ideals that the state shall not support or prohibit the exercise of Religion ("separation of Church and State" is not in the constitution).
 - Unity maintained by commonly held traditions embodied in a constitution and canon law, the Book of Common Prayer, and the threefold ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons,
- 1784 Samuel Seabury, first Bishop of the Episcopal Church, is consecrated in Scotland.
- Seabury an English loyalist; nonetheless, he was turned away in England for episcopal consecration. Went to Scotland to be consecrated by "rebel," non-juring bishops in 1785
 - he did not believe or promote lay participation at councils of the church
- 1784 The Methodist societies of the Episcopal Church broke away to become their own denomination—the Wesley Brothers
- 1785 The First General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in USA
Constitution and Prayer Book ratified
- 1787 William White (Pennsylvania) and Samuel Provoost (New York) consecrated bishops in England
- White was "presiding" bishop in the States

- as church re-formed and took root, he proposed it have
 - 1) the three historic orders of ordained ministry (deacons, priests, bishops)
 - 2) that it be operated by the clergy and the laity (new).
 - Bishops now subject to the laity, not the crown.
- 1789 The constitution of the United States of America and of the Episcopal Church are drafted. William White is chaplain to Continental Congress and main drafter of ECUSA Constitution. The new church's full name is the Protestant Episcopal Church of America. (See BCP 8-11)
- 1792 James Claggett made bishop in Maryland (first bishop consecrated on USA soil)
- 1817 General Theological Seminary was organized.
- 1821 Founding of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.
- 1830s The Oxford Movement (in which we became not so protestant)
- 1860s Episcopal churches founded in the newly opened regions of the West. During the Civil War the church was necessarily disunited, but at the General Conference of 1865 there was a full reunion.
- 1878 Church of the Good Shepherd formed in Cashiers. Cornerstones laid in 1892, and following a fire, in 1895.**
- 1919 The general convention created the national council, later called the executive council, and also in 1919 the presiding bishop's office was held by the church's most senior bishop. The first bishop to be elected presiding bishop was John Gardner Murray, bishop of Maryland, who served from 1926 to 1931.
- 1946 The General Convention designated the presiding bishop as the chief pastor and primate of the church, and removed the requirement that the presiding bishop also function as a diocesan bishop. (In 1994 the presiding bishop's term of office was reduced from 12 years to 9 years.)
- 1965 The Rt. Rev. John Hines elected the 22nd Presiding Bishop at the age of 54; he was the youngest person to hold that office, which he held until 1974. Hines is buried at Good Shepherd.
- 1960s Civil Rights movement has its effect on the church, particularly with race and gender.
- 1967 The Church removed the word "Protestant" from her name.
- 1974 The first women were "irregularly" ordained priests in the Episcopal Church.
- 1979 The most recent Book of Common Prayer was approved by General Convention for use..
- 1982 Current Hymnal approved for use by General Convention.
- 1989 The consecration of Barbara Harris as the first female bishop (not diocesan). This provoked dissenters to form the Episcopal Synod of America.
- 1993 Mary McLeod becomes the first women to be ordained as Diocesan Bishop.
- 1999 Established Full Communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- 2007 Katherine J. Schori consecrated the first female Presiding Bishop
- 2015 Michael Curry elected Presiding Bishop
- 2016 The Rt. Rev. Jose McLoughlin consecrated Bishop of Western North Carolina