

Anglican is an old term that refers to that portion of the Christian Faith that has historic ties to the Church of England. Ironically, the vast majority of Anglicans are now non-English and the preponderance of Anglicans live in Africa, with large numbers also living and worshiping in Southeast Asia and South America. Of course, many Anglicans live in England, but the vibrancy of what is known as the Anglican Communion may be best found in the African Countries of Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

Anglicans are first and foremost Christians. We believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and God's unique provision for human hope and redemption. We believe God is the creator of the universe and men and women have been made in God's likeness and bear His imprint within their very souls. God's design for us is to enjoy a loving and intimate relationship with him, but due to our rebellion and selfishness, this imprint has been disfigured beyond human repair and the loving relationship God intended between Himself and humanity was ruptured. Moreover, the justice of a holy God demands punishment for such rebellion, which hangs over the human race and is the source of much of our fear and despair in life. In order to restore this broken relationship, God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of a virgin, to live a sinless life and to suffer and die on the cross as an example of sacrificial love and (more importantly) as the full payment for our rebellion, thus making God both just and the justifier of those who put their trust in His Son, Jesus. The great culmination of this sacrificial love is the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the grave, the great miracle of all time, revealing the power of God over death itself and the hope of eternal life to all who believe.

The Anglican tradition traces its roots to the Catholic faith. Based on Holy Scripture and its message of Jesus Christ as Savior, Anglicans also value the teaching of the ancient Church Fathers and the great Ecumenical Councils of the Early Church. While these Councils are not perfect, Anglicans believe they provide wise instruction for understanding the person of Jesus Christ and the profound implications of His death and resurrection. In outward appearance, Anglican worship may often resemble Roman Catholic worship, with its emphasis on ancient ceremony, written prayers, and symbolic dress of worship leaders.

Anglicans also treasure our Reformed heritage. "Reformed" refers to the Protestant Reformation, and especially those truths of Holy Scripture held dear by the great reformers of the Faith such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Thomas Cranmer. The best way to summarize this Reformed heritage is with the five "solos" (Latin for "only"). We believe in Christ alone for salvation, expressed in Scripture alone, through faith alone, by grace alone, to the glory of God alone.

The third element of our Anglican identity may be called "charismatic." "Charis" means "grace," and it refers directly to the "charisms" of the Holy Spirit, the great gifts offered through the third divine person of the Trinity. It is through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that individuals are touched by God's love, healed and restored to a right relationship with Him, and

empowered for service in the world. Without the Holy Spirit, church is reduced to a religious “club,” and the reality of a transformed life is lost.

Christ Church Anglican invites you to explore who we are, and through this exploration discover more of who you are! Christian in essence, Catholic in form, Reformed in theology and charismatic in experience, we believe the Anglican expression of the Christian Faith is worth your consideration.