

# John Wesley and the Early Methodist Revival

Dr. Andrew C. Thompson  
First Methodist Church, Tulsa OK  
Spring 2024

## Course Texts

Richard P. Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, 2nd ed. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013).

Albert C. Outler & Richard P. Heitzenrater, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991).

## Class Schedule

### **January 17**

Topic: "Introduction to the Course: The Anglican and Pietist Roots of Methodism"

- Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp.1-35

### **January 24**

Topic: "The Three Rises of Methodism: Oxford, Savannah, and London"

- Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp.37-103
- Wesley, "The Circumcision of the Heart" (Anthology, pp.23-32)

### **January 31**

Topic: "The Revival Begins: Aldersgate Street, the Moravians, and the Means of Grace"

- Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp.107-129
- Wesley, "The Almost Christian" (Anthology, pp.61-68)

### **February 7**

Topic: "The Revival Grows: Playing Offense and Defense"

- Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp.129-161
- Wesley, *The Character of a Methodist* (PDF)
- Wesley, *The General Rules of the United Societies* (PDF)
- Wesley, "Justification by Faith" (Anthology, 111-121)
- Wesley, "The Great Privilege of Those That are Born of God" (Anthology, 183-191).

### **February 14**

Ash Wednesday – No Class

## **February 21**

Topic: "The Methodist Society: Classes, Bands, and Select Societies"

- Wesley, *A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists* (PDF)

## **February 28**

Topic: "The Means of Grace: Instituted, Prudential, and General"

- Wesley, "The Means of Grace" (Anthology, pp.157-171)
- Wesley, "Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, IV" (Anthology, pp.193-206)
- Wesley, "Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, VII" (PDF)
- Wesley, "The Duty of Constant Communion" (Anthology, pp.501-510)
- Wesley, "On Visiting the Sick" (PDF)
- Wesley, "Self-denial" (PDF)

## **March 6**

Topic: "The Way of Salvation I: The Doctrine of God and the Problem of Sin"

- Wesley, "The Unity of the Divine Being" (Anthology, pp.531-539)
- Wesley, "On the Omnipresence of God" (Anthology, pp.523-529)
- Wesley, *The Image of God* (Anthology, pp.13-21)
- Wesley, *Original Sin* (Anthology, pp.325-334)

## **March 13**

Topic: "The Way of Salvation II: The Nature of Grace and the Meaning of Salvation"

- Wesley, "The Way to the Kingdom" (Anthology, pp.123-132)
- Wesley, "On Working Out Our Own Salvation" (Anthology, pp.485-492)
- Wesley, "The New Birth" (Anthology, pp.335-345)
- Wesley, "The Marks of the New Birth" (Anthology, pp.173-182)
- Wesley, "The Scripture Way of Salvation" (Anthology, pp.371-830)

## **March 20**

Spring Break – No Class

## **March 27**

Holy Week – No Class

## **April 3**

Topic: "What is Christian Perfection?"

- Wesley, "On Zeal" (Anthology, pp.465-473)
- Wesley, "The More Excellent Way" (Anthology, pp.511-521)
- Wesley, "On Perfection" (PDF)

## **April 10**

Topic: "Publishing, Preaching, and Itineracy"

- Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp.163-222

**April 17**

Topic: "The Ethics of the Christian Life"

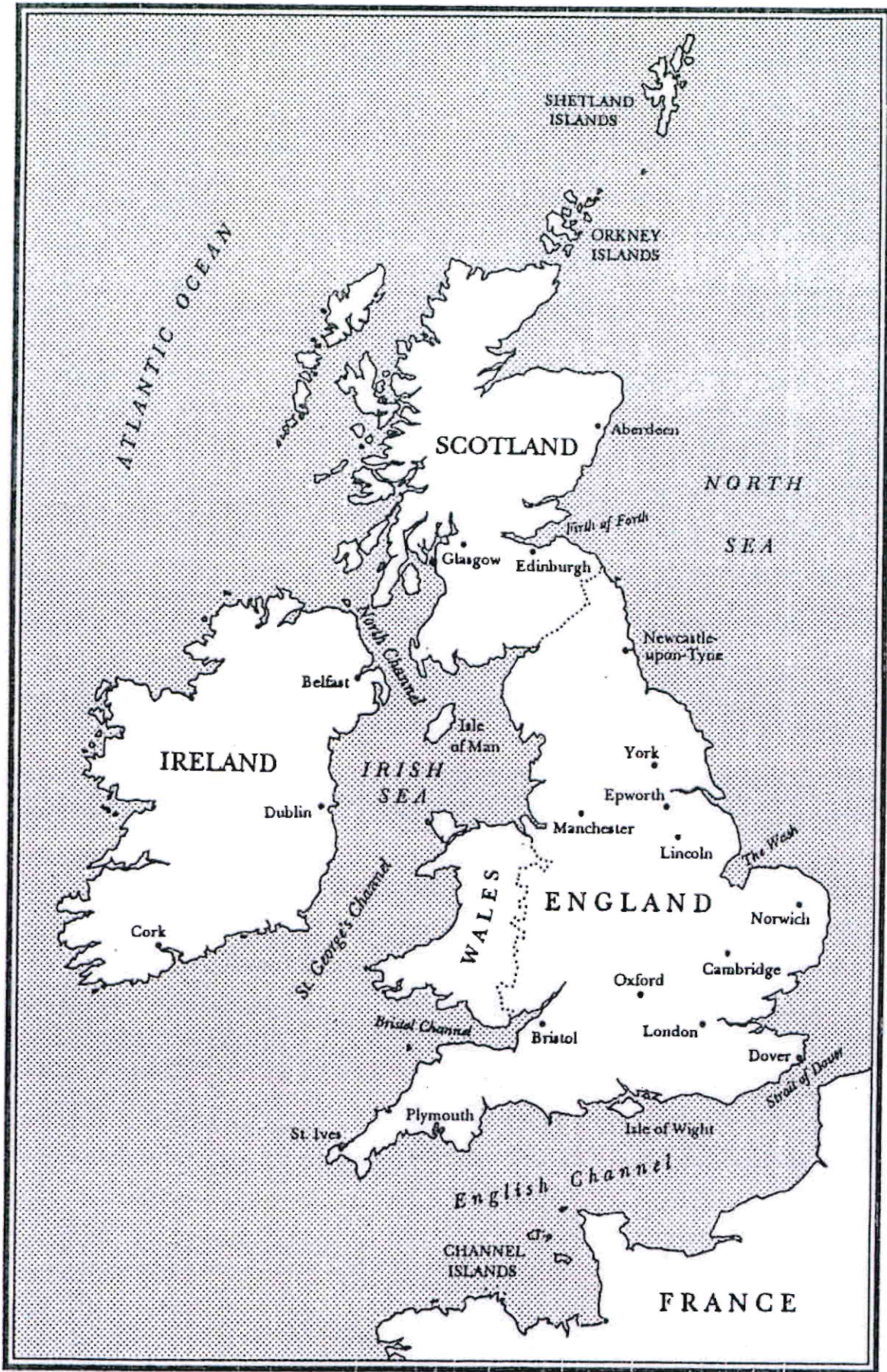
- Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp.223-290
- Wesley, *Letter to Miss March* (PDF)
- Wesley, "The Use of Money" (Anthology, pp.347-357)
- Wesley, "The Good Steward" (Anthology, pp.420-430)

**April 24**

Topic: "The Beginnings of American Methodism"

- Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp.291-361
- Wesley, *Letter to Our Brethren in America* (PDF)







Rev. Mr. JOHN WESLEY'S

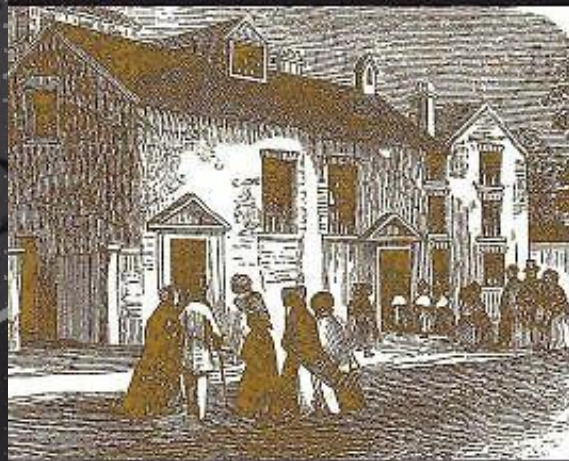
# *JOHN WESLEY*

*AND THE EARLY METHODIST REVIVAL*



A Kingswood Course

WESLEY  
AND THE PEOPLE CALLED  
METHODISTS  
SECOND EDITION



RICHARD P. HEITZENRATER

JOHN  
WESLEY'S  
SERMONS

An Anthology



EDITED BY

Albert C. Outler  
& Richard P. Heitzenrater



A Kingswood Course

# Why Study John Wesley?





# Is Wesley a...

- Sainly founder figure?
- Tribal chief?
- Protestant standard bearer?
- Superhero evangelist and revival preacher?

# Or is Wesley rather...

- A pattern of discipleship and
- A theological mentor & guide



# Backgrounds to Consider:

- Church of England in the Reformation Era
- English Civil War / Restoration / Glorious Revolution
- Continental Pietism
- Background of the Wesley Family



# From a Church in England to a Church of England

## Major figures:

- Henry VIII (1509-1547)
  - Thomas Cromwell (Henry's chief minister)
  - Thomas Cranmer (Archbishop of Canterbury)
- Edward VI (1547-1553)
- Mary I (1553-1558)
- Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

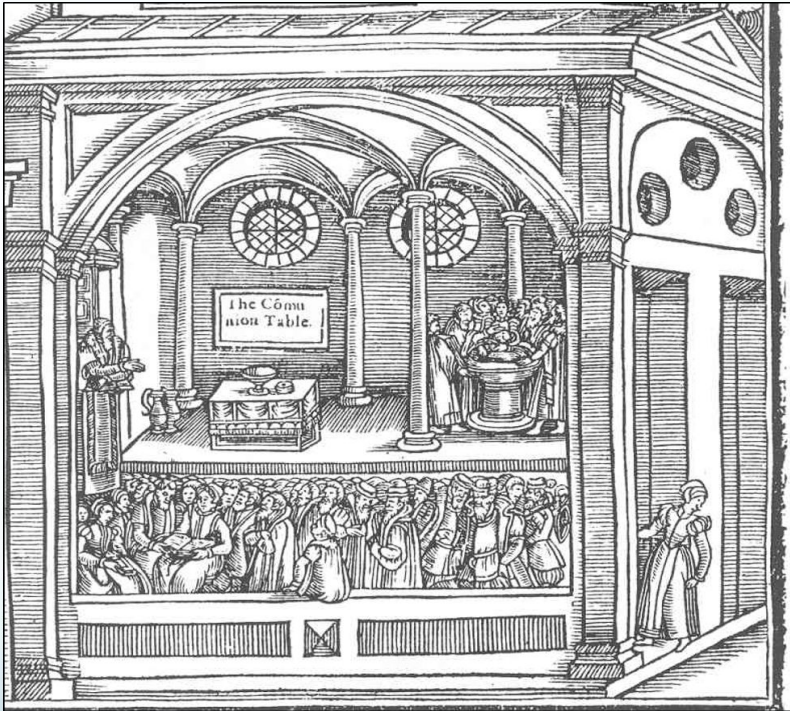
# From a Church in England to a Church of England

## Major events:

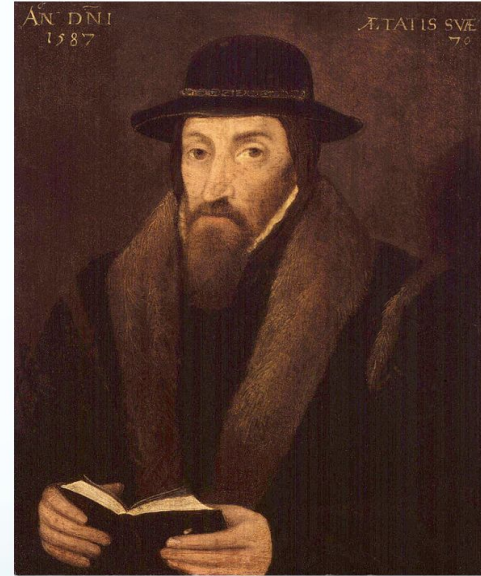
- Book of Common Prayer (for worship / liturgy)
- 39 Articles of Religion (for doctrine)
- Book of Homilies (for preaching)
- Parliamentary Acts: “Act of Supremacy” and “Act of Uniformity”
- The Church of England’s understanding of itself as holding to a “via media” between Rome and Geneva. Best articulated by Richard Hooker in the *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.

## Changes in Worship, Liturgy, Clerical Dress

- From the “Priest” to the “Minister”
- Emphasis on Preaching
- From the Mass to the Lord’s Supper
- Bible in English and the entirety of the worship service in English
- Absence of monastic orders and monastic life
- Clerical dress simplified (though not entirely abolished)
- Emergence of a “godly party” who wanted to finish the work of Reformation



From John Foxe,  
*Actes and Monuments*  
(16<sup>th</sup> century)



John Foxe (1517-1587)  
National Portrait Gallery, London (UK)