

ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL

The Anglican/Episcopal Church is the contemporary expression of the Church of England. This church separated itself from the Roman Catholic Church in 1534 and is a complex combination of Catholic tradition and Reformed theology (of the Calvinist rather than Lutheran type).

I. The Worldwide Anglican Communion

A. Their Size

Anglicans number some 85 million members worldwide, third largest in Christian faith (Roman Catholics and Orthodox). The largest numbers are in Nigeria, United Kingdom, Uganda, Sudan, and Australia. Anglicans worship in more than 2000 languages and among more than 500 cultures.

B. Their Doctrinal Beliefs

Anglican/Episcopal theology is based upon several foundations:

- The Bible as the revealed Scripture "best interpreted within the community of the Church, advised by tradition, reason, and the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit"
- The Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds
- The Thirty Nine Articles of Religion (1571)

C. Their Liturgy/Worship

Worship is highly liturgical guided by the *Book of Common Prayer*. The sacrament of Eucharist is the center of the worship service. Baptism (infants, children, adults) is a covenant sacrament.

D. Their Polity

Anglican polity is episcopal (from Greek *episkopos*). The religious or organizational leader at the top of the hierarchical structure is the Archbishop of Canterbury. The headquarters is Lambeth Palace in London.

Anglican/Episcopal Leadership is as follows:

- The Archbishop of Canterbury

- Primates (Archbishops) who oversee a Province
- Bishops who oversee a Diocese
- Priests and Deacons who serve local churches
- The Vestry, a council of laypersons who assist the priests

II. The Episcopal Church (USA)

Since Anglican bishops are appointed and swear allegiance to the sovereign of England as the Supreme Governor of the Church, it became necessary for Anglican churches in the colonies to separate themselves from the Church of England after the Revolutionary War.

Church leaders met in Philadelphia in 1789 and established the Protestant Episcopal Church. They revised the Book of Common Prayer but changed no doctrines from their Anglican ancestry.

Currently, The Episcopal Church USA includes nine Provinces. Due to its social justice and liberal tendencies, it has experienced fracturing. The more conservative members/churches gravitated to the Reformed Episcopal movement or the Anglican Church in North America.

Prolegomena

England and the Continent

A constant tug of war with the European mainland

Julius Caesar invaded England in 55 BC

Royal Families from the Continent became Dynasties in England

England and the Christian Faith

Augustine as Leader of 40 monks sent by the Papacy (AD 597)

Canterbury became the Christian center

Geographical Distance from Rome became Distance from Church

England and the Papacy

William the Conqueror (1066-1087) denied Pope's authority

Henry II's (1154-1189) slaughter of Thomas Becket (Canterbury)

John Wycliffe (1328-1384) was a loud voice against the Pope

III. The Church of England (1534)

A. Kings and Queens in the Formative Years

1. Henry VIII (1509-1547)

The lack of a male heir became "The King's Great Matter."

- Marriage to Catherine of Aragon (1509), in 17 years—no son
- Justified by Cromwell and Cranmer, marriage declared invalid
- Married Anne Boleyn (1533)

The Act of Supremacy (1534) by Parliament severed the Church of England from Rome, making Henry VIII the Head of the Church. This change was nationalistic or political, not theological.

The Ten Articles (1536), a short doctrinal statement (Catholic leaning)
The Injunctions (1536 and 1538) spoke of enforcement, intolerance
The Six Articles (1539) death penalty for denial of Catholic doctrines

2. Edward VI (1547-1553)

Reign governed by regents/advisers who were Protestant sympathizers
The *Book of Common Prayer* (1549, revised 1552)
The Forty Two Articles (1553)

3. Mary I (1553-1558) Bloody Mary

Catholic and filled with revenge, married to Philip II of Spain
Returned England to the Roman Catholic Church (1554)
Bloody, violent purge of Protestants (almost 300 put to death)
Many fled to live as exiles on the Continent

4. Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

Trained under Bishop Hooper, a strong Calvinist
Act of Uniformity (1559) ended brief return to Catholicism
The Thirty Nine Articles (1563, 1571) leaning more toward Protestantism

No religious dissent was permitted as religious dissent was the same as civil rebellion since she was the sovereign of both State and Church.

5. James I (1603-1625)

Like Elizabeth, squeezed between Catholics, Anglicans, and Puritans
Desired one Bible for all churches—the Authorized Version (1611)

6. Charles I (1625-1649)

Conflict between King (Anglican/Catholic) and Parliament (Puritans)
Parliamentary forces won. Charles I convicted of treason and executed

7. [The Commonwealth] (1649-1660)

Establishment of a republic dominated by Puritans and Presbyterians

8. Charles II (1660-1685)

A "quiet" Catholic, he stifled all dissent through Parliamentary acts.

9. James II (1685-1688)

A very, open, practicing Catholic, Declaration of Indulgences
Parliament leaders offered throne to William of Orange

10. William III and Mary II (1689-1694/1702)

Out of the "Glorious Revolution" they were equal co-sovereigns.
The Bill of Rights (1689) and the Act of Settlement (1701) permanently
prohibited a Catholic or anyone married to a Catholic to be the King or
Queen of England.
Act of Toleration (1689) ended most of the persecution of dissenters.

B. Purifying/Dissenting Groups out of the Church of England

1. Puritans
2. Congregationalists
3. Separatists
4. Baptists
5. Quakers
6. Methodists