

Intro to Anglicanism

Part I: A Brief History

Definition of Anglican: The word Anglican refers to Anglo-Saxon Christianity. It is the set of Christian spiritual practices developed in the British Isles over roughly 1800 years. It is a way to follow Jesus, but not *the* way.

Origins

- Pentecost as the birth of the Church
 - The three-fold order of ordained bishops, priests, and deacons is the structure followed by the earliest church. **(include scripture citations)**
- 3rd Century Christianity arrives to the British Isles
 - Hypolitus of Rome was the first theologian to preach and write in British Rome.
 - Within a century, the Christians in the British Isles was following Episcopal Polity.
- 5th Century: German people, known as the Anglo-Saxons, invaded the British isles
 - Old English replaced Latin as the spoken language in churches
 - As church theology developed, it was largely in alignment with the Roman Church but with a few differences:
 - Date for Easter and the tonsure haircut
- Late 6th Century: Augustine of Canterbury – First Missionary to British Isles
 - His arrival marks a reattachment with Rome and exposed these differences.
 - Synod of Whitby (664)
 - Determined whether or not they would fight to retain their particularity in practice, or whether they would compromise their preferences for the sake of catholicity.
 - They humbly chose catholicity over preference.
- ~700-1065 saw distinct developments in church practice and governance largely isolated from the Roman Catholic Church (while still being connected):
 - Church was decentralized with each parish responsible for its customs.
 - Clergy could marry.
 - The Bishop of Rome had no influence in appointing Bishops.
 - Chosen by King and then ratified by Clergy.
 - People could receive Communion in both kinds (bread and wine).

Norman Conquest (1066)

- Restructured Dioceses to invest more authority in Bishops (centralized authority).
- Enforced celibacy for its clergy.
- Communion in one kind is established (bread only).
- Investiture Controversy: Did the Pope or Holy Roman Emperor have power to appoint bishops?
 - Still largely influenced by the King, but now approved by the Pope instead of local clergy.

English Reformation as a *return* to Ancient Christian Practices (1527-1590)

- Henry VIII didn't start his own church; the break from Rome signalled a return to our Ancient Christian practices. Albeit not for great reasons, the Church of England became Reformed Catholics.
- Return to ancient practices:
 - The Bishop of Rome had no authority over the Church in England.
 - Liturgical worship practiced in the language of the people and people were taught the Scriptures.
 - Clergy can marry.
 - People can receive Communion in two kinds.
 - Rejected Transubstantiation (an innovation) but maintained Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist.
- Thomas Cranmer and the 39 Articles
 - "The Via Media"
 - Created space but with boundaries within Anglicanism. We are a "big tent."

Modern Developments and Shift in Worship Practices

- English Reformation created a culture of dissent from Roman Catholicism, which wasn't always healthy. The Anglican Church drifted away from anything that looked 'popish.' This included things like vestments, high church practices, weekly Communion, et al.
- The Oxford Movement (1833-1845)
 - Sought to re-establish the level of devotion and practices found in the early Church. This includes things like vestments, weekly Eucharist, and liturgical rituals (sacramentals).