



The Eucharist

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study 2016



Many people come to the Episcopal Church from other denominations. Receiving no help in understanding the different eucharistic liturgy, they go with the flow, accepting that “it’s just the way we do it here.”

Life-long Episcopalians have heard the liturgy’s words all their lives, but often have received no explanation of its history. Many of these folk have never thought critically about the concepts the words and symbols express. They accept the familiar liturgy out of habit rather than conviction.

John Tyler

Both new and life-long Episcopalians will find this series helpful. We will explore the following questions, and others, in a straight-forward, easy-to-understand way.

- How was the Eucharist understood and practiced in the early centuries?
- How did the understanding and practice of the Eucharist change during the Middle Ages, and what were the consequences of those changes?
- What new understandings and practices did the European reformers introduce, and why?
- How did Thomas Cranmer, who wrote the first English Prayer Books, understand the Eucharist, and what changes were introduced in the nineteenth century by the Oxford Movement?
- How has the Episcopal Church understood and practiced the Eucharist throughout its history?
- How does the Rite I Eucharistic liturgy in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer compare with the liturgies of the past? What does the liturgy proclaim? How will a deeper understanding help you participate in the celebration with a greater sense of joy, wonder, and praise?
- How can parishioners with different understandings about the real presence of Christ in the consecrated bread and wine enter into the celebration of the Eucharist with a greater sense of unity?

The series schedule is shown below.

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SESSIONS	DATE	DISCUSSION TOPIC
1	September 12	Why This Topic?
2	September 19	The Last Supper
3	September 26	The Shape and Concepts of the Liturgy
4	October 3	The Middle Ages – Explanations of the Real Presence
5	October 10	The Middle Ages – From Doing to Gazing
6	October 17	The Reformation on the Continent
7	October 24	The Reformation in England
8	October 31	The Eucharist in the Episcopal Church
9	November 7	The Rite I Eucharistic Liturgy
10	November 14	Symbols and Real Presence Today
11	November 21	“Open Mic: Anything Goes” Class Discussion