

EPISCOPAL 101

Episcopal 101 is a class for newcomers and old-timers alike—anyone who seeks a deeper relationship with God and to learn more about the Episcopal Church. It will meet on Monday evenings, starting on January 13, 2020, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in McGill Hall.

Over the course of 12 sessions we will dive into the theology and history of the Episcopal Church, scripture, and the *Book of Common Prayer*. We'll explore different forms of prayer and learn about the ministries of Holy Comforter. At the end, some will choose to be baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church, but that is not a requirement. Each meeting will begin with prayer and a check-in for each person to briefly share what's up with him or her; and starting on February 3 we will conclude with Compline, a brief service of Prayers at the End of the Day.

All are welcome in this safe space to ask all of your questions. Come and experience the presence of the living Christ in one another. To register for the class, or if you have questions, please contact the Rev. Ann Gillespie (agillespie@holycomforter.com or 703-938-6521, ext. 15).

Outline of the course

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</u>
Jan. 13	Starting the Journey	Introductions: Telling our Stories, Hopes & Expectations Tour of the Church
<i>(Jan. 20)</i>	<i>No class: MLK holiday weekend)</i>	
Jan. 27	Worship	Instructed Eucharist: Introduction to What Happens During the Service
Feb. 3	Baptism	The Baptismal Covenant; The Meaning of Membership Introduction to "The Three-legged Stool"
Feb. 10	Holy Scripture	Hebrew and Christian Scripture; Episcopal Beliefs
<i>(Feb. 17)</i>	<i>No class: Presidents' Day weekend)</i>	
Feb. 24	Christianity and the Episcopal Church: Historical and Theological Overview	Tradition: Highlights of the History of Christianity The Episcopal Church: The Via Media The Episcopal Church in America and Virginia
Mar. 2	The Book of Common Prayer The Church Year	Guide to Use of the BCP; Contemporary Issues
Mar. 9	The Creeds Church Polity	Statements of Belief Church Organization & Leadership, National & Local
Mar. 16	Prayer and Spirituality	Experience of Prayer; Personal & Group Prayer Practices
Mar. 23	Music in the Church Open Circles	History and Current Practices; Hymn Books Importance of Small Groups
Mar. 30	Holy Week and Easter, Part I	Introduction to Services During Holy Week & Easter
<i>(Apr. 6 & 13)</i>	<i>No class: Holy Week and Easter}</i>	
Apr. 20	Holy Week and Easter, Part II	Discussion of Experiences of Holy Week
Apr. 27	Holy Comforter Today	Ministries: Mission & Outreach, Service & Participation, Stewardship & "Plus 1"; Spiritual Gifts
May 4	Shared Meal, Final Questions	Fellowship and Feedback
<i>Sunday, May 31</i>	<i>Rite of Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation</i>	<i>For those wishing to take this step, when the Bishop visits Holy Comforter on Pentecost</i>