

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Prayer Survey

As we finish the book *The Great Divorce*, Our Christian education class will be exploring prayer for several weeks before beginning another book.

The following questions are here to help us consider how we think about prayer. The point is not to come up with some “right answer,” but to clarify your own thoughts as they are to facilitate us talking about it together.

What do I personally think prayer is? What do I think is happening when I pray?

What do I enjoy about prayer? What do I not enjoy about prayer?

Do I believe prayer is important?

Do I believe prayer can influence events?

Do I pray separate from church? (This is not meant to be a judgement but an exploration) If the answer is no, is there something I feel prevents me from doing so? If so, what?

In our church, we generally use fixed liturgical prayers written by theologians and approved by the collected church, what are called “set prayers.” Prayer that is created on the spot is called “extemporaneous prayer.” Do I have a preference for set prayer or extemporaneous prayer?

In our tradition, people are sometimes uncomfortable with extemporaneous prayer. This can make a personal prayer life difficult. Am I comfortable with extemporaneous prayer?

Have you ever prayed the daily office in part or in whole? If so, what was your experience with it?

Have you ever explored meditative prayer? If so, what was your experience with it?

Have you ever explored prayer that focuses on your physical body or state of being? If so, what was your experience with it?

If you could learn one new thing about prayer or change one thing about your current prayer life, what would it be?

Are there forms of prayer you have heard of but not used yourself that you would like to explore?

Please consider your answers to these questions, and this will be the beginning of discussing this topic together on January 30th.