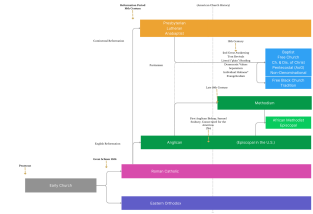


## Overview of “Crash Course”

- This is an overview, fast, high-level, context

Church History Tree - [Canva link](#)



## The Early Church

The Bible describes the earliest churches in Acts 2:42, “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” If that describes the church descended of the Apostles, then we should expect to see much of this still at the center of the fellowship of the church.

“Episcopal” in our name reflects the value to continue in the church of the Apostles, who were overseers of the church, or in the NT greek “*episcopos*”. It means we’re a church that believes bishops are successors of the apostles and vital to our common life as a parish. We share this value, as well as the three orders of ordained ministry in bishops, priests, and deacons—with Roman Catholics, and Eastern Orthodox. But what of other traditions that don’t share that? For that we look back to a few key moments in Church History.

## The Great Schism of 1054

Common heritage (everything is shared up to this point in church history)

Leading up to the 11th century there were already in place significant cultural differences between the East and the West. This, mixed with the theological controversies surrounding the addition of the *filioque* “and from the Son” without council from the East, led to a fallout called the Great Schism of 1054. This created what is known as the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.

## Early Anglicans

Meanwhile, as early as the 3rd century, there has been a church in the British Isles. In 597 a Christian monk in Britain became the first archbishop of Canterbury (not that Augustine). He is considered the “Apostle to the English” and a founding figure of the Church of England. *Ecclesia anglicana* means “English church”

## Henry VIII

1509 Henry VIII - Married his dead brother’s widow, Catherine of Aragon, who was a princess of Spain. The union required a special dispensation from the Pope in Rome, Clement VII. This marriage wasn’t producing an heir, Henry VIII requested an annulment from the pope but was not granted it because Catherine’s nephew was the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, and had the pope under his control. (political/power in nature)

The need for reform in the English Church was met with the opportunity that Henry VIII’s political interests provided. His messy pursuit of an heir lasted through 6 marriages, 2 executions, and a lot of drama. Queen Elizabeth was Henry VIII’s daughter (with Catherine), pursued a church that all Catholics and Protestants could in theory worship together, despite their theological

disagreements. The Anglican church was “reformed Catholic”, and was called the “via media” or the broad middle way between Catholics and Protestants.

### **Reformation Highlights**

- (the Catholic Church of Luther’s day is not the Catholic Church of today)
- Luther’s 95 Theses on the door of Wittenburg - main issue was that justification is a gift from God received through faith.
- Zwingli in Switzerland - Eucharist we receive Christ only spiritually, and that one cannot be baptized as an infant.
- Calvin in Geneva - Presbyterian

The Church of England was formed more by a way of prayer and worship than any one figure or statement of doctrine

- Thomas Cranmer (prayer book), Hooker: Scripture, Tradition, Reason;
- Prayer book for the people in English
- Thirty Nine Articles of Religion
- Common cup and Bread for the people
- Navigating Protestant and Catholic pressures

### **Colonies in America and Revolution**

For 2 centuries, Anglicans in the Americas didn’t have bishops on the continent. They were more lay supported and collegial. During the American Revolution, Anglicans in America cut ties from the Church of England because it’s head was the monarch.

Samuel Seabury - First Anglican bishop in the US, sent by clergy in the U.S. to be consecrated by England. They refused, so he sought out the Scottish Episcopal Church who agreed if he shaped the American prayer book like theirs, which had some key distinctions: invocation of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharistic prayer, which was borrowed from Eastern Orthodox practices believed to be a more true & ancient pattern of Christian worship.

### **American Christian Characteristics**

- John Wesley accidental founder of Methodism: Itinerancy on horseback as an Anglican
- Tent Revivals, Great Awakenings
- Plain Reading of Scripture (literal)
- Democratic values
- Individual Holiness
- Evangelicalism

Questions:

1. Do you come from a particular Christian tradition? If so, which one, and can you find it on the Church History tree?

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## What is Anglicanism

So are we Protestant or Catholic?

John Jewel (1522-1571) and Richard Hooker (1554-1600) both speak of the Church of England with two words joined together, **reformed and catholic**.

“Reformed”

Constantly changing into conformity with Christ. The Church is not judged by some golden age of the past but the eschatological future, in which Jesus’ prayer for unity, found in mission and obedience to him and the whole creation is reconciled to the Father through the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. \*Ever-discerning\* (our own example)

*ecclesia semper reformanda est*

Development of doctrine (St John Henry Newman) — the idea that doctrine develops is not new, but a description of what has always been taking place in the church’s (self-)reflection on who they are in the light of scripture

“Catholic”

It is a term confessed in the early Nicene and Apostles’ creeds dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries. These creeds speak of believing in the “Catholic Church,” the undivided church of the first millennium. Perhaps the best explanation of the origin of the term catholic is that it comes from a Greek phrase, *kata holos*, meaning “according to the whole” (i.e., universal). Tied to a historical entity, apostolic succession (Fr Shawn can trace his to John). Liturgies (Eastern’s claim the oldest unchanged liturgy) and the problem of “the historic church” in evangelicalism.

Plus “Mystic” — Lady Julian (C. S. Lewis again, in *Great Divorce*)

Plus “Eastern” — Rowan Williams

More Neoplatonic. Less Aquinas (Aristotle), more mystery and Ps-Denys, this leads into C. S. Lewis (*not evangelical* but a weird Anglo-Eastern).

Plus “Evangelical” — C. S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity*

He’s not evangelical. If you find yourself attracted to his vision of Christianity, then what you are attracted to is an ancient, surprisingly Eastern, Anglo-Saxon Christianity.

Lewis is not a theologian, but a medieval historian. He’s not an idiot.

It’s not just “you and Jesus,” but you and the whole church and Jesus.

“We have no doctrine of our own. We only possess the Catholic doctrine of the Catholic Church enshrined in the Catholic [or Ecumenical] Creeds [Apostles’, Nicene, Athanasian (clarified doctrine of Trinity and “persons” as heuristic; the Father and the Spirit are not literally persons in

the sense we understand personhood)], and these creeds we hold without addition or diminution.”

Archbishop of Canterbury Geoffrey Fisher 99th Archbishop of Canterbury, serving from 1945 to 1961. \*\*also Council of Chalcedon, which clarified the *communicatio idiomatum*...

Common Worship

### **What is the Anglican Communion? ([from the AC website](#))**

The Anglican Communion consists of Churches in more than 165 countries around the globe. There are 41 provinces and, all in communion – or a reciprocal relationship – with the See of Canterbury and recognise the Archbishop of Canterbury as the Communion’s spiritual head. But there is no central authority in the Anglican Communion. All of the provinces are autonomous and free to make their own decisions in their own ways – guided by recommendations from the four Instruments: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Primates’ Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council.

Instruments of Communion:

- The archbishop of Canterbury functions as the spiritual head of the communion.[45] (Why GAFCON/ACNA was bad to disavow leadership of Canterbury)
- The archbishop is the focus of unity, since no church claims membership in the communion without being in communion with him. The present archbishop is Justin Welby.
  - Where is the pope in this?
- The Lambeth Conference (every 10 years), The Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primates' Meeting.

Discussion questions:

1. Considering the life of our parish, is any of this surprising to you? How does this differ from what you thought?
- 2.