



THE Episcopal Church Welcomes You

*Send out your light and your truth,
that they may lead me,
and bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.*

—PSALM 43:3

WELCOME!

We're delighted that you're here and invite you to worship with us any Sunday or other scheduled worship service. The church may be open weekdays for prayer, rest, or meditation. Please check with an usher or clergyperson about times when the church is open.

We seek to be a welcoming church. If you are new or visiting, please introduce yourself to other worshippers, the clergy, or ushers, so we can welcome you properly. We want you to feel at home here and to help in any way we can. We also know that some people prefer simply to worship and leave. We do not wish to intrude if you prefer to leave without giving us your name.

If you have a special need such as baptism, confirmation, or marriage, or if you wish to consult a priest, please do not hesitate to speak to a clergyperson, call the church office, or write a note on a pew Visitor Card.

WORSHIPPING WITH US

You will find Prayer Books and hymnals in your pew. These books allow us to worship together. The Episcopal Church, like most other branches of the worldwide Anglican Communion, uses a version of *The Book of Common Prayer* for daily and Sunday worship. Page numbers and hymn numbers are posted, announced, or printed in the service bulletin. If you're having difficulty finding the right page or following the service, don't be afraid to ask someone sitting nearby for help.

The most commonly used services found in the Prayer Book are The Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer. *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) contains two versions of each service—one in traditional language (Rite One) and one using contemporary words (Rite Two). You can find these services on the following pages:

- The Holy Eucharist, Rite One begins on page 323.
- The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two begins on page 355.
- Morning Prayer, Rite One begins on page 37.
- Morning Prayer, Rite Two begins on page 75.

... turn over ...

HYMNS & PSALMS

Hymns are usually listed in the service leaflet or announced. If there is an S before the hymn number (for example, S-125), the music can be found at the front of the Hymnal.

Page numbers for the Psalms (hymns of the Hebrew Scriptures) will be announced or printed in the service leaflet, in a form that facilitates congregational reading or singing. The Prayer Book Psalter, a poetic sixteenth-century translation of the psalms, begins on page 585.

KNEEL, STAND, OR SIT?

If you're new to the Episcopal Church, you will quickly discover that we do a lot of sitting, standing, and kneeling at various times in the worship service. Generally, we stand or kneel for prayer, sit for instruction, and stand for praise. Feel free to follow along with the congregation, but know that you are not required to do so.

CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH

Everyone is welcome in the Church, and children are welcome to attend any service with you. However, if you would prefer, or if your child finds sitting through an entire service difficult, ask an usher about Sunday School or nursery programs. Worship booklets or activity packets for children may be available from an usher. If you would like your child to be baptized, confirmed, or enrolled in Sunday Church School, please consult a clergy person.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are both Catholic (true to the historic Christian faith) and Protestant (reformed and evangelical). This walk in the middle way is a hallmark of Anglicanism and of the Anglican Church in the United States, known as the Episcopal Church. Our core beliefs are expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, shared with many other

Christians. You are welcome here with all of your doubts and questions!

Laypersons are members of the Episcopal Church by virtue of their baptism, for we believe that the Church is the body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. The ordained ministers are bishops, priests, or deacons.

Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist (The Lord's Supper) are the two great sacraments (visible signs of spiritual grace) in the Anglican tradition. In addition to the *Sacraments* and the *Creeds*, there are two other essential foundations of the Episcopal Church: the *Holy Scriptures* of the Old and New Testaments and the *Historic Episcopate*, the line of succession of bishops in the life of the Church. (The word "episcopal" means "relating to a bishop.")

CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Most Episcopal churches offer a variety of Christian education programs, mission and outreach opportunities, and prayer and fellowship groups. Please ask an usher or clergy person to tell you about parish ministries and programs.

TO BECOME A MEMBER

If you wish to become a member of this parish, please speak to a clergy person.

*Whether you are here as a visitor or looking
for a church home, we're glad you're here,
and we hope you'll visit us again.*