

Session 4 – April 3, 2014

# The Bible & the Book of Common Prayer

## What we have covered so far:



- ▶ How the Bishop's Challenge 2014 Works
- ▶ The Developmental History of *The Book of Common Prayer* (1549-1979)
- ▶ A Bibliography of Resources for Further Study
- ▶ Where to Find What You Need in the Prayer Book
- ▶ The Recovery of Early Church Practice & Patterns of Worship in the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*
- ▶ Patterns of Christian Life Reflected in the Prayer Book
- ▶ The Lectionaries for Sundays and for Weekdays (The Daily Office)
- ▶ Using the Prayer Book in Real Life

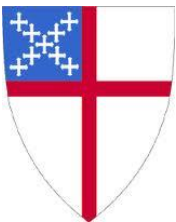
## The Book of Common Prayer and our Christian Identity

### Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion



Exists in over 165 countries  
 Over 85 million members  
 Autonomous, but share doctrine, ways of worshipping, and mission  
 Archbishop of Canterbury serves as a focus of unity

### Members of The Episcopal Church



109 Diocese, three regional areas in 17 nations  
 A member province of the worldwide Anglican Communion  
 Over 1.6 million members  
 Presiding Bishop serves as a focus of unity

## What is the mission of The Episcopal Church?

The mission of the church, as stated in the Book of Common Prayer's catechism (p. 855), is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

The 2012 General Convention established the Anglican Communion Five Marks of Mission as a mission priority framework for the 2013-2015 triennium:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, sustain, & renew the life of the earth

## What's in the Back of The Book of Common Prayer?

**The 1979 edition of *the Book of Common Prayer* may look like earlier prayer books, but it is actually a resource library for learning as well as pastoral & personal prayer.**

- ❖ Page 585 – The Psalter or Psalms of David
- ❖ Page 810 – Prayers and Thanksgivings
- ❖ Page 845 – An outline of the Faith, or Catechism
- ❖ Page 864 – Historical Documents of the Church
- ❖ Page 880 – Tables for Finding the Date of Easter & Other Holy Days

## An Outline of the Faith, or Catechism

**Q. What are we by nature?**

**A. We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God.**

### ***The Catechism***

*"It is a commentary on the creeds, but is not meant to be a complete statement of belief and practices; rather, it is a point of departure for the teacher"* (Book of Common Prayer, p. 844).

Offered in a question-and-answer format, the Catechism found in the back of the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 845-862) helps teach the foundational truths of the Christian faith.

▶ [library.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/catechism](http://library.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/catechism)

## Historical Documents of the Church

- ❖ Theological Definitions
- ❖ The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion
- ❖ The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral

### Historical Documents

*"Tucked in between the Catechism and The Lectionary is a section called "the Historical Documents of the Church." They are included in the Prayer Book because they have milestone importance in the history of Christian thought, but they have particular significance for Anglicans and Episcopalians as we have come to understand our faith over the centuries.*

*When many of these documents were developed, the people involved in their discernment and crafting argued, fought, and even died for the theologies they describe."*

*- Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer by Vicki Black*

## Tables for Finding Holy Days

- ❖ Easter, p880
- ❖ Moveable Feasts and Holy Days, p884

### **Easter Day Hint:**

Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21.

### **Moveable Feasts & Holy Days Hint:**

Make your life easier. Just Google them or check out a Liturgical Calendar.

## **The Bishop's Challenge 2014**

**Example: Thursday, April 3, 2014 – Day 30 of the Bishop's Challenge 2014**

- ▶ **Read Psalm 25**
- ▶ **Read Matthew 26**
- ▶ **Personal Prayer or Quiet Reflection**
- ▶ **Say The Lord's Prayer**
- ▶ **Prayer Book "nugget": Prayers 18, "For our Country", BCP p820**