



## **5 Starter Facts About the Episcopal Church**

1. The Episcopal Church was organized after the Revolutionary War to preserve the practices and beliefs of the Anglican congregations and hierarchy in the United States without the vow of allegiance to the King as head of the religion. There are ~3 million Episcopalians and ~85 million in the Anglican Communion worldwide.
2. Alongside the Christian Bible, the Book of Common Prayer is the center of Episcopal worship. It contains the services, prayers, and some holy scriptures. They cite this text as what separates their services from that of the Catholic Church. The most recent edition was introduced in 1979.
3. The idea of apostolic succession is very important in the Episcopalian Church. All bishops are ordained by at least three bishops; one of them must be able to trace his or her lineage back to one of the first three American bishops, and through them, back to the apostles.
4. The Episcopal Church self-identifies as a middle ground between Catholicism and mainstream Protestantism, using primarily Roman Catholic rituals and Protestant theology.
5. The Episcopal Church as a whole is fairly liberal on social issues. The Church has publicly apologized for complicity in slavery, segregation, racism, and denounced laws restricting same-sex marriage, abortion access, and has supported ordination women and members of the LGBT community.

Learn more at:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/i-am-episcopalian>

<https://episcopaldiocesefortworth.org/about/what-do-episcopalians-believe/>

*These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.*

June 2018