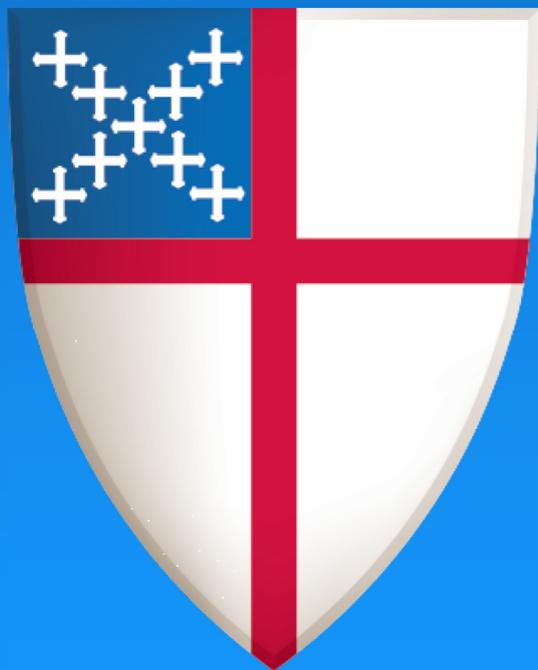
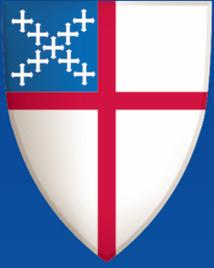


The Distinctiveness of the Episcopal Tradition

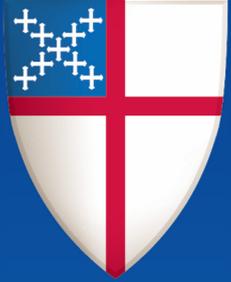


Session #4: Why I Am Episcopalian



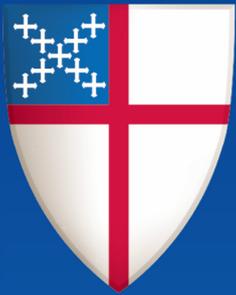
Why Belong to Any Church?

- All beings are relational, including God
 - The Trinity is the mystery of unity in diversity
 - Not monolithic or static; divine interplay of love
 - Distinctions between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit refer to interior relationship, not activity
 - We are communal beings
 - “No one is an island”
 - Connected to one another and creation in a web of interdependence and love
 - Interdependence rather than “dominion” model
 - Does God need to be in relationship?
 - A life with God has requirements: worship, communal living, values



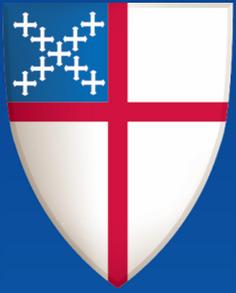
Why Belong, con't

- Value of living in community
 - Forms us in necessary and important ways with respect to our common humanity
 - Intentional community forms us with respect to our common values
 - Christian community forces us to grapple with living out our beliefs in everyday life
- We need the Church to challenge us and hold us accountable



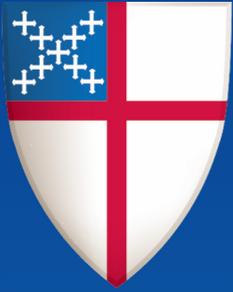
Why Belong to TEC?

- Interplay between wonder and revelation
 - Our theological reflections are provisional and incomplete
 - Fundamental stance of humility, respect for mystery of God
 - Flip side of ambiguity is freedom for creative expressions of faith
 - Challenge of remaining faithful to Tradition
 - Freedom of thought and discussion
- Challenge to human reason
- A fully realized baptismal ecclesiology allows for breadth of experience. All voices have a chance to be heard - not just the Caucasian male experience.



Web Resources

- On social media “like” the pages for “The Episcopal Church,” “Episcopal Cafe,” “Episcopal Relief and Development,” “Episcopal Diocese of California,” and “Anglican Communion News Service”
- Can also go to websites and signup for e-newsletters
 - “Episcopal Digital Network” website is an aggregator of several Church sites
 - “Episcopal Cafe” is a curated site - highlights issues of interest
 - Note: Our diocese is often referred to as “DioCal,” and the e-newsletter is “DioBytes”



Books

- Anglicanism: A Very Short Introduction, Mark Chapman
- Glorious Companions: Five Centuries of Anglican Spirituality, Richard H. Schmidt
- A People Called Episcopalians: A Brief Introduction to Our Peculiar Way of Life, Rev. Dr. John Westerhoff
- Welcome to the Episcopal Church, Christopher L. Webber (“Welcome Series”)
- The Episcopalians, David Hein and Gardiner Shattuck Jr.
- A History of the Episcopal Church, Robert W. Pritchard
- People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity, Dwight Zschelle