



Adult Confirmation Class

Title: Anglicanism 101

Date: Spring 2023

Catechist: Fr. Alan Crippen

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Introduction:

The Rite of Confirmation in the Anglican Prayer Book tradition is firstly, intended to ratify and confirm the renewal of “the solemn promise and vow” made by the confirmand or in the confirmand’s name at his/her baptism. In the Prayer Book (1928) that solemn promise and vow is (1) to “renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp, and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh”; (2) to “believe in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God”; (3) to “accept him, and desire to follow him as thy Saviour and Lord”; (4) to “believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles’ Creed”; and (5) to “obediently keep God’s holy will and commandments”. (BCP, pp. 277-278)

Whether or not one was baptized in this Anglican rite or that of another denomination, Christian baptism is essentially a public commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in totality for all of one’s life. Baptism is an initiation into new life in Christ and an engrafting or incorporating into the body of Christ’s Church. It is a new beginning, an enlistment, if you will to serve in Christ’s Army and “manfully to fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ’s faithful soldier and servant unto ... life’s end.” (BCP, p. 280)

Sometime between the confirmand’s baptism and confirmation, there is an expectation for mastery of basic training in Christian knowledge and fundamental doctrine or church teaching. That biblical and theological content is found in the Offices (i.e. duties) of Instruction on pages 283-295. They are written and presented for memorization in catechismal style. All confirmands should be acquainted and knowledgeable of this material.

The Rite of Confirmation is secondly a solemn occasion to corporately pray for the confirmand’s “daily increase” in “the manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel [guidance] and ghostly [spiritual] strength, the spirit of knowledge and true

godliness”, etc. (BCP pp. 296-299). The occasion of one’s confirmation is a spiritual experience and equipping of the grace of God.

Most adults seeking confirmation at Holy Trinity are typically from other Christian faith traditions. So, Holy Trinity conducts confirmation class, not only to review the confirmand’s baptismal vows and Christian profession, but also to better acquaint the confirmand with Anglican doctrine, devotion, and discipline by exploring Anglican heritage and practice.

Objectives:

1. To spiritually and intellectually prepare the confirmand for the rite of confirmation
2. To introduce the confirmand to Anglican heritage and ministry
3. To equip the confirmand with core knowledge to more fully participate in the life of the church

Requirements:

Confirmands are expected to faithfully prepare for and attend class. Any necessary absences should be cleared with the catechist. At any point during the term, a personal interview should be scheduled with the rector to discuss the confirmand’s spiritual journey.

Resources:

Book of Common Prayer (1928 edition), Oxford University Press
John Howe and Samuel Pascoe, *Our Anglican Heritage* (Second Edition), Cascade Books, 2010

Other Recommended Resources:

McGrath, Alister. *“I Believe” Exploring the Apostles’ Creed*, IVP
Moorman, JRH. *A History of the Church of England* (Third Edition), Morehouse
— *The Anglican Spiritual Tradition*, Templegate
Packer, JI. *Knowing God*, IVP
Stott, John RW. *Basic Christianity*, IVP
— *Christian Basics An Invitation to Discipleship*, Baker
Thomas, W. H. Griffith, *The Catholic Faith: A Manual of Instruction for Members of the Church of England*, Longmans, Green, and Co., 1920 (reprint: www.forgottenbooks.com)
To Be A Christian: *An Anglican Catechism*, Crossway
Webber, Robert and Lester Ruth. *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail: Why Evangelicals Are Attracted to the Liturgical Church* - Revised Edition, Moorehouse

Class Schedule

Week One (March 8) Baptism, Offices of Instruction, and Confirmation

Assigned Text: BCP, pp. 273-299

Week Two (March 15) **NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)**

Week Three (March 22) An Ancient, Reformed, and Protestant Church

Assigned Text: Howe and Pascoe, pp. 1-29

Week Four (March 29) A Biblical and Prayer “Bookish” Church

Assigned Text: Howe and Pascoe, pp. 30-57

Week Five (April 5) **NO CLASS (HOLY WEEK)**

Week Six (April 12) A Sacramental Church

Assigned Text: Howe and Pascoe, pp. 58-95

Week Seven (April 19) A Confessing and Missional Church

Assigned Text: Howe and Pascoe, pp. 96-127

Week Eight (April 26) An Orderly Church

Assigned Text: Howe and Pascoe, pp. 128-143; Optional: Appendix B pp. 204-210

Week Nine (May 3) A Catholic and Messy Church

Assigned Text: Howe and Pascoe, pp. 144-169; 189-192