

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



Who are these Anglicans?

HISTORY

Doesn't have as its origins the popular misconception that it came into being because of Henry VIII's marital problems. The routes of the Anglican Church go back to the early years of Christianity in Britain. **Celtic Christianity** which flourished from 400-1000AD preserved and also helped learning at a time called the 'Dark Ages'.

Roman Christianity, having left Britain with Roman occupiers in 400AD, returned in 597AD with the arrival of St. Augustine and spread and dominated throughout England. In the 15th/16th Century, discontent with papal government and abuses produced a desire to look again at the roots of the Christian Faith. There was a '**Reformation**' with John Calvin, Martin Luther and others emerging. King Henry VIII, who remained Roman Catholic in practice, being suspicious of the reformers, decided to remove the Church in England from the control of foreign powers. **Elizabeth I**, the daughter of Henry VIII, later continued this independence with services in English, a printed book (Book of Communion Prayer), the reading of scripture, clergy could marry, and the corruptions and superstitions of the medieval church abandoned. What emerged was a church avoiding narrow definitions and regulations, the Church of England holding together in one family, a variety of views.

WORSHIP

The Anglican Church of Canada

- has worship at its heart - worship which is offered to God and not a performance for an audience. It comes in a printed form '**liturgy**' such as the small Red Book of Common Prayer 1549/revised 1959) and Green – Book of Alternative Services 1985.

- has worship which is '**sacramental**' in that God's *grace* (love), and *presence* is expressed through material things e.g. bread and wine and water. The two main sacraments 'sacred acts' are Communion and Baptism, instituted by Jesus. Five lesser sacraments are Confirmation, Confession, Ordination, Marriage, Anointing the Sick.
- has worship which involves all the senses using colour, music, symbols, art, poetry, language, taste, touch and posture, involving the whole person and so helping to bring us into God's presence.
- is biblical using a '**lectionary**' in worship – 'a list of readings in an order which covers most of the bible over a three-year period.
- has three guiding principles: **1. Scripture 2.Tradition** – i.e. Apostles and Nicene Creed – 'What I Believe' **3. Reason** – balanced judgement with an emphasis on scholarship and study.
- has '**Baptism**' as the way in which a person becomes a member. An individual as well as being cleansed from sin is given the gift of new life and becomes a part of the Christian community. Any Christian baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit can receive Holy Communion.
- has the **Life in the Eucharist program** to teach children about the meaning and relevance of Communion.

STRUCTURE

The Anglican Church of Canada

- is descended from the Church of England as the British Empire expanded around the world inheriting its books, customs, traditions and form of church government.
- is a part of the worldwide Anglican/Episcopal Family of churches – 37 member Provinces (Canada being 1) with nearly 70 million members in 164 countries.

- is an autonomous national church with each of the 37 Provinces related to the other.
- has three orders of **ordained ministry** – Bishop, Priest and Deacon.
- is organized in dioceses; regional groupings of parishes, each headed by a Bishop (Greek ‘overseer’): chairing meetings, such as Synod ‘a parliament’, discussing the concerns of the church, but also being pastor to the clergy and lay people.
- each Diocese is made up of **Deaneries**; a group of parishes in a smaller geographical area i.e. Thunder Bay
- is made up of **parishes** with a Priest ‘Rector’ whose role includes being an administrator, and pastor to the people and deacons (not ordained as priest yet) who assists the priest in the parish.
- decisions at local level are made by the Rector and the Parish Board, the latter selected every year by the people at the ‘**Annual Vestry Meeting**’.
- representatives of the parishes and the clergy meet every two years at the Diocesan (Algoma) ‘Synod’, to discuss and make decisions.
- The Diocese elects people to the parliament of the church – Provincial Synod (e.g. Ontario), and General Synod (Anglican Church of Canada).

Some facts!

The Anglican Church of Canada...

- has 31 Dioceses covering the country
- has four internal provinces from West-East – British Columbia and Yukon, Rupert’s Land, Ontario and Canada each with an Archbishop ‘a senior Bishop’

- has 680,000 members in the roll of 1,800 parishes

Prayer for the Church 1959 Revision of 1918

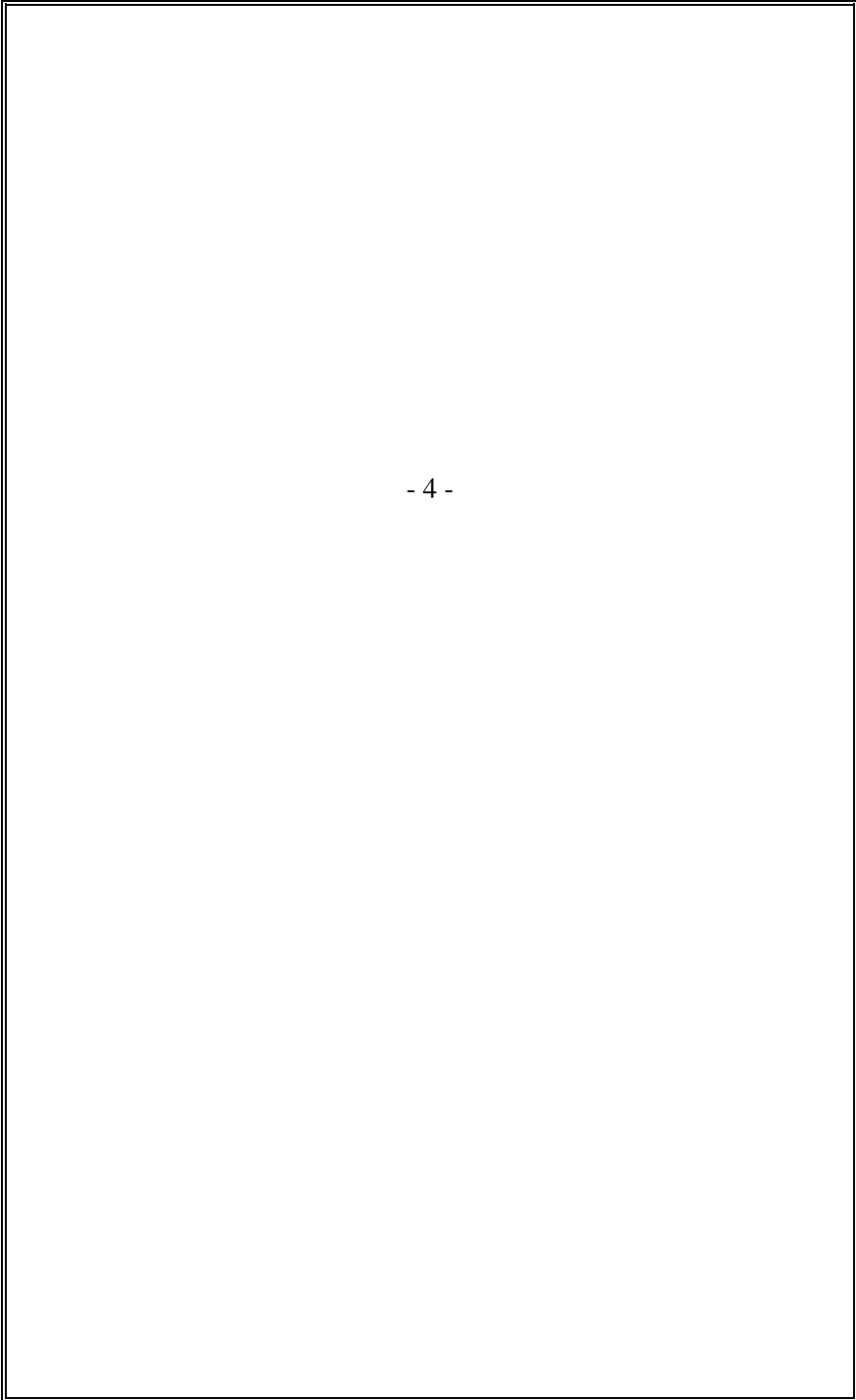
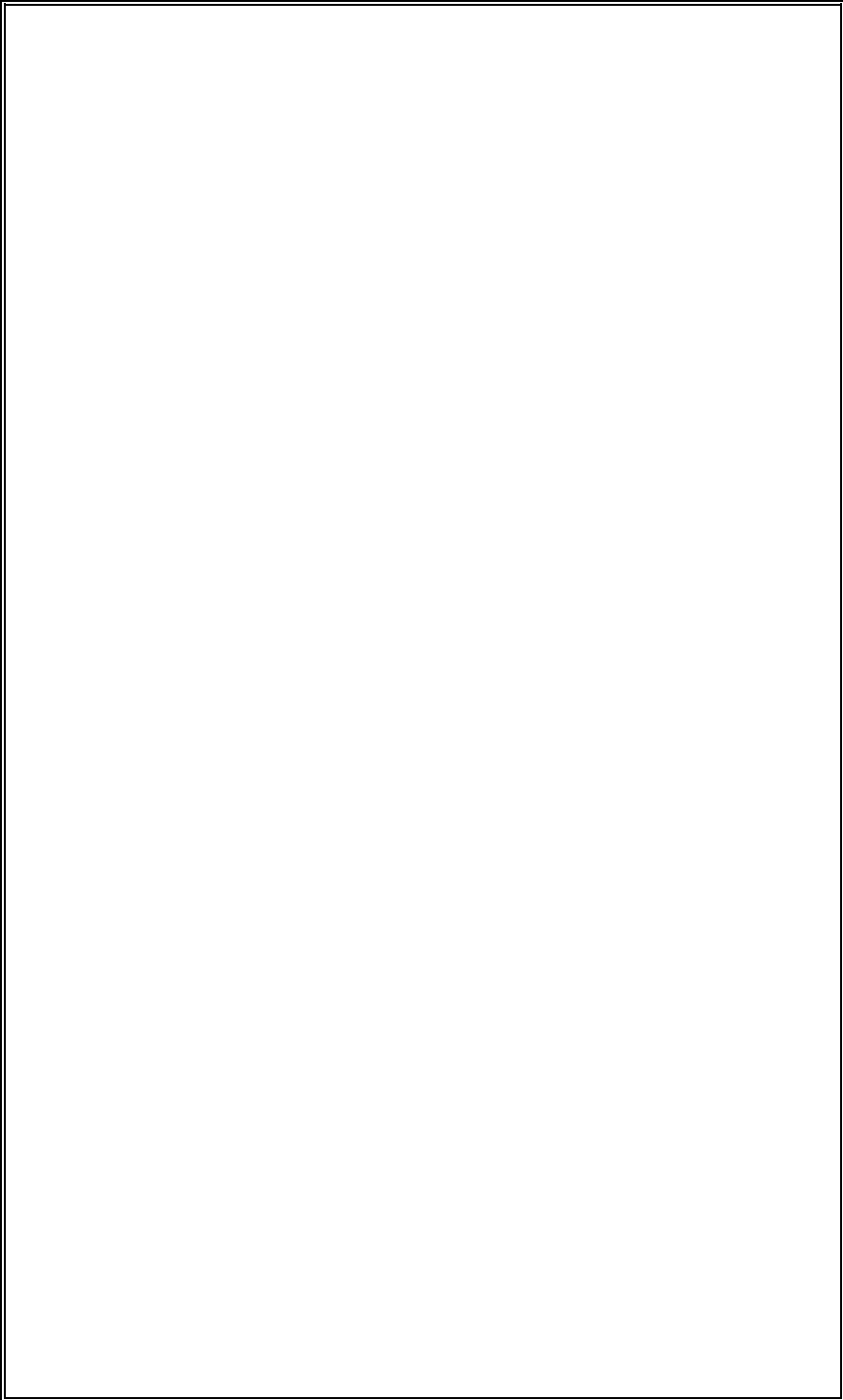
Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Most gracious God, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, make it whole again, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Song:

LET THERE BY LOVE (Sung twice)

Let there be love shared among us,
Let there be love in our eyes,
May now your love sweep this nation,
Cause us, O Lord, to arise;
Give us a fresh understanding
Of brotherly love that is real,
Let there be love shared among us,
Let there be love. CCLI License #2379867

Mural: Presented by the JK class (Joe Carroll)

Offertory Hymn:

ONE MORE STEP ALONG THE WORLD I GO

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new,
Keep me traveling along with you:

REFRAIN **And it's from the old I travel to the new**
 Keep me traveling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn,
All the new things that I see,
You'll be looking at along with me: **REFRAIN**

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should,
Where I see no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know: **REFRAIN**

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough,
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me traveling along with you: **REFRAIN**

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me,
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me traveling along with you: **REFRAIN**

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