

A little more about Christ Church and the Episcopal tradition

What does it mean to be "Episcopal?" What does it mean to be Christ Church?

We're part of an interesting family tree and have a unique place within it. The Episcopal tradition is the American branch of the wider Anglican Communion around the world, which stemmed from the Church of England during the 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Core to Anglicanism was worship that centered on a Book of Common Prayer, drawing on Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions that allowed everyone to worship together. The Anglican tradition worldwide continues to show a rich range of musical styles, ways of prayer and worship, and service to others.

Christ Church is an important part of how that history happened. It was founded in 1695 as part of the Church of England, a condition of William Penn's Charter, and then later became the place the Episcopal Church was formed at its first General Convention in 1789.

The Episcopal Church is made up of different regional areas called dioceses; we're part of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.



Join in worship or a church event, and what will you see? People across generations, cultures, and household styles sharing communal worship with the Book of Common Prayer, where you can find communion, prayers, and other services; informed scholarly study of theology and the Bible and how it relates to our lives now; justice work in Philadelphia and beyond; and brave space for authentic questions of real faith and life.