

Episcopal Beliefs and Practices - Participant's Guide  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Spring 2025

Welcome to this community offering and thank you for being a part of our class and community! The goal of this class is to familiarize you with the basics of being an Episcopalian Christian. If you would like to go a bit deeper and read along here is a book that you will find very helpful: *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*, by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. You can order it online from Forward Movement or your favorite source.

Meaghan and Jennifer will be leading this class, but your participation and questions will help to shape the content. We are eager to learn from you and to hear your questions. This is a rough outline of important dates and content, especially if you are seeking Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation of your Baptismal Vows when the Bishop visits on May 4.

February 23 – Welcome and Introduction to the class

- Baptism, where all ministry begins
- Overview of Rites of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows
- Read: Walk in Love, Chapter 2, 3, and 6 pp. 71-74

March 2 – 400 years of Church History in 40 minutes!

- A brief overview of Christian history, the English Reformation and the Episcopal Church
- The Episcopal Church Today: governance and structure
- How do we make decisions? Where Does Authority come from in the Episcopal Church?
- Read: Walk in Love, Chapters 17 and 18

March 5 - Ash Wednesday, worship at noon or 7 p.m.

March 9 - No Class today - Lot's to read for next week so you may want to get started this week!

March 16 - The Book of Common Prayer

- Why our common prayer matters (brief history of Prayer Book)
- How we mark time together in prayer
- The Liturgical Year
- Holy Week
- Read: Walk in Love, Chapters 9, 10, 11, 13

March 23 – Word and Sacrament - Worship in the Episcopal Church

- Worship at 5 and 10 will be and instructed Eucharist.
- Introduction to Scripture and how we read it

- The Sacraments: what are they and why do they matter?
- The Creeds
- Read: Walk in Love, Chapters 1, 4, 5

March 30 – Good Morning, Church! What does it mean to be the Church?

- Read: Walk in Love, Chapters 17, 19, 23

April 6 – Holy Week and the lingering questions

- Preparing for Holy Week and why it is so important to participate
- Ask a priest, what questions remain for you?

April 12/13 – Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins

April 17 – Maundy Thursday, worship at 7 p.m.

April 18 – Good Friday, worship at noon or 7 p.m.

April 19 – The Great Vigil of Easter, worship at 7:30 p.m.

April 20 – Easter Sunday (even though the queen of all worship services is the Great Vigil!)

May 4 – Bishop's Visitation, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Please let Jennifer ([jennifer@smcportsmouth.org](mailto:jennifer@smcportsmouth.org)) know if you will be missing classes or if you have any questions about the class. Thanks again for joining us!