

Beliefs

What We Believe

We believe in one God, creator of all things, who redeems us from sin and death and renews us as the children of God.

We promise to follow Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. We believe all Christians have a part to play, using their own individual talents in their everyday lives, to bring the world a little closer to the way God wants it to be — in unity with God and with each other.

We practice these beliefs in worship together as a community and the wider Church, in reaching out to our neighbor in need, in sharing our story and experience with others, in seeking guidance to our questions in study and prayer, and in giving of our means and talents to proclaim by word and example the Good News.

We are enriched by your presence with us. Please remember us as a place of rest, restoration and renewal. If you are searching for a place to worship regularly, we welcome you.

*We proclaim Christ crucified and risen,
and invite you to join with us in ministry
together in his name.*

*Dear Lord, you promise to give rest to the weary,
food to the hungry, and welcome all who seek
you. Be present to us, O Christ, and unite us
in bonds of love so that we may serve you in
harmony, always to your glory and the welfare
of your people. Amen.*

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.



Please view our other brochures introducing the Episcopal Church:

- The Creeds
- The Book of Common Prayer
- Scripture, Tradition & Reason
- The Sacraments

They are also available online at www.stjamesbr.org.

St. James Episcopal Church

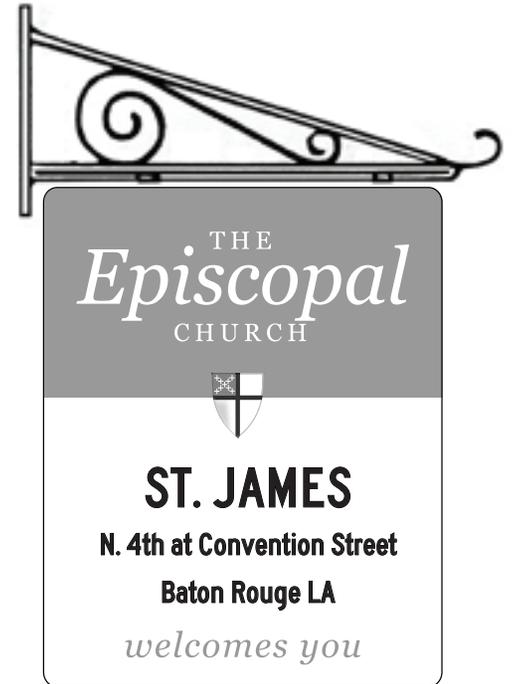
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Episcopalians EPISCOPALIANS



BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
www.stjamesbr.org

Who We Are

The Episcopal Church

May the Lord be with you.

The Episcopal Church is multicultural, multinational, and multilingual. We have provinces in 17 nations and are a member of the Anglican Communion with 70 million members in 163 countries.

We are bound together in our belief that Holy Scripture contains the core of Christian faith. We hold four things in common: the Bible as a basis of our faith; the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds as basic statements of Christian belief; recognition of the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion; and, the historic episcopate. That is, The Episcopal Church is an historic church tracing its existence back to the Apostolic Church as established by Jesus Christ.

Our worship space is designed to fully engage the senses and to educate through the eye as well as the ear. The Book of Common Prayer is a framework to support the substance of worship.

As Episcopalians, we are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We uphold the Bible and worship with the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe in amendment of life, the forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting.

We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.

Both men and women, including those who are married, are eligible for ordination as deacons, priests and bishops.

Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our church.

Holy Communion may be received by all baptized Christians, not only members of the Episcopal Church.

We affirm that committed relationships are lifelong and monogamous. Episcopalians also recognize that there is grace after divorce and do not deny the sacraments to those who have been divorced.

We affirm that issues such as birth control are matters of personal informed conscience.

Worship

Unity before Uniformity

We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.

The Episcopal worship service is of the community, based in Scripture and from the *Book of Common Prayer*, allowing everyone to participate.

We celebrate God with us through water, bread and wine. By Christian baptism with water, we are united in the invisible Kingdom of God.

In the last supper with the disciples, Jesus shared unleavened bread and passed a common cup. With the bread he said the words, "This is my body given for you." With the cup, he said, "This is my blood which is shed for you." We believe that by the grace of God, Jesus is truly present to the faithful in the bread and wine. Any baptized person is welcome and encouraged to share in this meal.

All are welcome to find a spiritual home in the Episcopal Church.