

The Diocese of Toronto was created in 1839 and it included all of Upper Canada. Its first bishop was the Rt. Rev. John Strachan, a Scot who had an immense influence upon early life in what is now Ontario.

Weddings, Baptism & Funerals

Here you will find a description of some of the most frequently requested services in the Anglican Church.

Baptisms

Through the sacrament of baptism, a person is made new in Christ and becomes a member of the Church, the family of God. Candidates for baptism and their sponsors make several promises that demonstrate a life-long commitment to Christ and the Church. In preparation for this, candidates and sponsors may be asked to meet with the clergy and are often required to take special classes with other baptismal candidates. In order to enquire about the sacrament of baptism, please contact our parish priest.

Weddings

Christian marriage celebrates the union of husband and wife in the context of their relationship with Christ and the whole Christian family of the Church. For this reason, Anglican weddings normally take place in church buildings. To be married outside, or in another venue, please speak to our parish priest. Each parish has its own fee structure for weddings, which can range from free of charge to several hundred dollars. At least one of the couple must be a

baptized Christian. If one or both of the couple has been divorced, the couple must apply through their parish priest to the diocesan bishop for permission to remarry.

In preparation for the promises made in the wedding ceremony, the couple must meet with the clergy and are often required to take special classes with other engaged couples. In order to enquire about weddings, please contact our parish priest.

Funerals

Christians believe that the end of this earthly life is the beginning of a glorious new life in Christ. Anglican funerals attempt to balance the grief and bereavement of those living with a celebration of the life of the deceased, and faith in the hope of the resurrection. For more information on Anglican funerals, contact our local parish priest.

Other special services

There are a variety of other ceremonies and services available for personal celebrations – for example: the blessing of a new home or the renewal of wedding vows.

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St Andrew Anglican Church

The Anglican Faith



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What is Anglicanism?

In its country of origin it is called the Church of England, but in other countries it is usually called the Anglican or Episcopal Church. Anglicanism worldwide shares a common liturgical and theological tradition, catholic and reformed, which is expressed locally in a wide variety of languages and customs. While each national or regional church within the Communion is autonomous, the Archbishop of Canterbury is the spiritual head and the chief sign of its unity.

The whole family of Anglican Christian Churches worldwide has some 70 million members in 164 countries, and is known as The Anglican Communion. A distinguishing feature of the corporate nature of Anglicanism is that it is an interdependent Church, where parishes, dioceses and provinces help each other to achieve by mutual support in terms of financial assistance and the sharing of other resources.

What We Believe

Anglicans are drawn together by a common loyalty to:

- Scripture as the revealed Word of God.
- The historical Creeds of the Church as sufficient statements of Christian belief.
- The celebration of the seven sacraments of the Church with special emphasis on Baptism and Eucharist.
- The apostolic ministry of bishops,

priests, and deacons in the life of teaching and service in the Church.

The use of scripture, Church tradition, and reason in matters of belief and practice. Anglicans believe that the most important thing we do as Christians is to gather together for worship. We are "busy" worshippers. Anglican worship may seem confusing at first, but it is a form and a style of worship that is both centuries old and yet so dynamic as to keep us from becoming stale and bored.

Our Worship

We offer many different opportunities for worship. Many of our parishes are using the *Book of Alternative Services* for most of their worship services, but several still use the traditional *Book of Common Prayer*. There are eucharistic parishes, evangelical and high-church parishes of long tradition, charismatic renewal parishes and justice-oriented parishes. Several parishes are exploring different models of ministry aimed at connecting with seekers. There are also worshipping communities in institutions such as hospitals, schools, universities and prisons.

The diocese is home to many multi-ethnic and language-based congregations including Chinese, Filipino, Franco-African, French, Hispanic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Sudanese and Tamil.

A Brief History

Anglicanism is a denomination of the Christian religion. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth, a first-century Jewish preacher in Palestine, was in fact God

incarnate ("in the flesh"). Today, there are more than two billion Christians worldwide.

The three main branches of Christianity are the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church, and Anglicans are part of the latter. There are four main strands within the Protestant churches: Anglican/Episcopal, Lutheran, Reformed/Presbyterian and the Free Churches, together totaling about 500 million members.

Anglicans trace their Christian roots back to the early Church, but the Reformation in the 16th century led to the Church of England's independence from the Roman Catholic Church. The contentious issues of the Reformation were the authority of the Pope, the authority and accessibility of Scripture and precise meaning of the eucharist (the ritual of sharing bread and wine to represent Christ's body and blood, as he did with his disciples the night before his death).

There were two main stages in the development and spread of the Anglican Communion. Beginning with the 17th century, Anglicanism was established alongside colonisation in the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. The second stage began in the eighteenth century, when missionaries worked to establish Anglican churches in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The first Anglican bishop in Canada came from New York City at the time of the Revolution. He was the Rt. Rev. Charles Inglis, and he became the Bishop of Nova Scotia in 1789.