

Being Anglican

Universal

Anglicans are Christians and members of the universal church, valuing what is distinctive about the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Anglicans seek to work with the Holy Spirit to overcome divisions between churches, so that all Christians may be one.

Worshipping God

Worship of God is central to Anglicans.

There is variety in Anglican worship: contemporary and informal, or traditional and formal. A special place is given to the Eucharist, in which we share the sacrament (the visible sign with spiritual meaning), of the body and blood of Christ.

Reading and meditating on the Bible plays a major part in Anglican life and belief.

Significant facts

The Lambeth Conference, a gathering of bishops which meets every ten years, has identified as significant to Anglicans in the quest for Christian unity:

- The Bible
- The Nicene Creed (statement of faith)
- The Sacraments of Baptism & Eucharist
- The role of Bishops

Anglican History

History

Anglicans bring together traditions from the early centuries of Christianity, ancient Celtic Christianity, medieval Catholicism and the European Reformation of the sixteenth century.

The name “Anglican” indicates roots in the Church of England and still involves being in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Contemporary picture

Today, Anglicans embrace a variety of languages and cultures from many different parts of the world, giving distinct features to our worship, church life and theology.

Anglicans today are actively exploring how our own land and multicultural heritage enrich Australian Anglicanism.

Anglicans world-wide are seeking to reflect something of the unity-in-diversity of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit: three persons in one God.



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Logo for the world-wide Anglican Communion

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Being a Christian

What is a Christian?

Christians are people who responded to the good news brought about by Jesus Christ, believing that in Jesus, God has come among us, sharing our joy and our pain, and bringing the offer of new life and wholeness to us and our world.

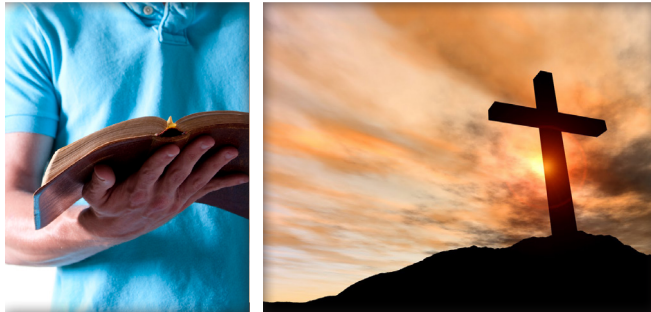
Who is Jesus?

Christians speak of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. During Jesus' earthly life, over 2000 years ago, many people found in him:

- a new closeness to God;
- forgiveness of their sin and failure;
- the beginnings of life in abundance.

This still happens today.

Jesus accepted death on the cross for us, has been raised to new life at Easter, and has sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage us. Christians respond to him in faith.



Where is Jesus today?

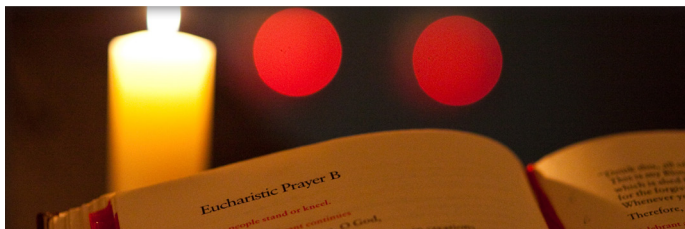
Jesus encounters us in our prayer and worship of God, privately and as a community of the church. We attempt to show the new life this brings us through reading the Bible, especially the New Testament.

What is the Church?

Being a Christian means being baptized into the Church, which is the body of Jesus Christ in the world today. We share communion with Christ and with one another in the Eucharist, the family meal of the Christian community.

What is Baptism?

We begin our Christian journey by being baptized with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



We are brought into a new and intimate relationship with God the Father by the coming of Jesus Christ and through the work of the Holy Spirit. The God we know and worship is Father, Son, and Spirit: one God in three persons; the Holy Trinity.

Christians are followers of Jesus Christ. They are people of faith, hope and love; sharing in God's work to bring into this created world the peace, justice and wholeness that God intends for it.

What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books which Christians accept as God's word, interpreted by inspired writers at different stages of history. It comprises the Old and New Testaments.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament contains writings about God's will for created order being lived out in ancient civilizations and is part of a heritage shared with Judaism and Islam. Writings in this section of the Bible look forward to the coming of the Messiah, our saviour for humanity.

The New Testament

This section of the Bible details the revelation of Jesus who is the Messiah (Christ). Writings about the life and work of Jesus, his cross and resurrection, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the life of the early church show us God's will for all people.

The way to understanding

The Bible is still the best-selling book in the world. Understanding of the Bible by each generation is assisted by modern translation in all languages, and many commentaries written to assist the reader.