

# NEW CREATION CHURCH

CHRIST MAKES ALL THINGS NEW

BIBLICAL ROOTS, HISTORICAL WORSHIP, MISSIONAL FOCUS

*What  
does it mean  
to worship  
in the  
Anglican  
tradition?*

An introduction to worship at New Creation Church  
Hagerstown, MD

“Ours is not the only way to be Christian,  
but it is a reliable way because it is  
connected to all Christians everywhere  
... and always.”

- Archbishop Robert Duncan



## Rooted in Scripture

Acts 2:42 presents a biblical pattern for Christian worship. It was said of the Jerusalem church that they, “(1) *devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching* and (2) *the fellowship*, (3) *to the breaking of bread* and (4) *the prayers*.” The content of our worship follows this biblical pattern.

1. The Apostles’ teaching about Jesus is central to our faith and worship. We read the Bible together and confess our faith with either the Apostles’ or Nicene Creed.
2. When we gather together, we gather in fellowship as Christ’s body. We know that there is immense blessing in this fellowship!
3. “Breaking of the bread” refers to an early form of what we call Holy Communion. Communion isn’t just something we just tack on to our services. Jesus gave the church a meal – a wonderful expression of his self-giving love for us. We come excited to meet him at the Table!
4. We make time for corporate prayer together as the body. We lift up the church, the world, each other, and the sick and the needy in our prayers. We value and use the prayers of faithful Christians throughout the centuries, and we joyfully add our own prayers as well.

# Old & New

Our worship also follows a basic pattern shared by most Christians throughout the ages. Around 150 A.D., the early Christian leader Justin Martyr described Christians worshipping in a way that looks very similar to how we worship today. Simply put, our Sunday morning worship flow looks like this:

- (1) We gather as Christ's body
- (2) to hear and respond to God's Word.
- (3) We come to the Table of the Lord and then we are
- (4) sent back out into God's world.

Besides sharing this basic pattern of worship, we also use many old and new resources in our worship. We sing songs with lyrics ranging from ancient to modern. We sing modern choruses, the *Gloria Patri* (meaning "glory to the Father"), and many classic hymns. We want the best from all of the church's history!

# Sacramental

Well that's not a word you hear every day, is it? So, what is a sacrament?

In its simplest definition, a sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In other words, it is something tangible that you can see, touch, taste and feel that points to something equally real, but intangible. Saying our worship is "sacramental" means that we value the power of symbols. For example, the sacrament of Communion is a regular part of our worship and lets us participate in the reality of the sacrificial death of Christ and the family we experience together through our faith in him. In the broken bread we see his broken body, in the wine we see his blood shed for us, and as we share the meal together we do so in the community of faith.

# Global Community

Anglican worship is globally connected. Each Sunday when we gather, there are Christians all over the world who are worshiping in the same way! Many of them are even reading and meditating on the same passages from Scripture as we are.

More locally, we belong to the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. What this means is that we are part of a growing and vibrant family of local churches who all share the same pattern of worship. Our regional family is led by the Bishop of the Mid-Atlantic, the Right Reverend John Guernsey (Bishop John also connects us to the wider Anglican Communion). We value the direction and guidance of faithful church leaders, which is why the Anglican Church embraces the three-fold ordained ministry of bishop, presbyter/priest\*, and deacon.

More on our movement: we belong to The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), which unites more than 110,000 Anglicans in nearly 1,000 congregations across the United States and Canada into a single Church. It is an emerging Province in the global Anglican Communion.

*\*The term priest is derived from the old English word for presbyter or elder. When we say 'priest' we mean the God-ordained order of ministry represented by elders (presbyters) in the New Testament – not someone who stands between God and his people.*



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