

Traditional

Here at St. John's we believe in the "Faith once delivered to the Saints".

This Faith has been defined for us in God's revealed Word, the Bible. As Traditionalists we believe that the, "Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation" (Article VI) and that the Church, as the keeper of 'Holy Writ' does not have the authority change the doctrines of the Church, or to condone anything that is contrary to Scripture.

Additionally, we accept the decisions of the ancient councils of the Undivided Church and their interpretation of Scripture as authoritative. Since the Church has been guided by the Holy Spirit, God would not contradict Himself and say one thing to the early councils and the opposite to modern man. Given the choice between the winds of this age and that which has proven to be true, we choose Truth.

The most commonly known statements from the councils are the Nicene and Apostles Creed, which we accept as the authoritative statements of the Faith of the Church.

We adhere to the Traditional positions of the Church because they have proven to be a solid foundation for faithful belief and living.

Anglican

St. John's is a member of the Episcopal Church of the United States, which is a member of the Anglican Communion. The Anglican Communion is the third largest denomination in the world.

Coming from the Latin phrase *Ecclessia Anglicana* (English Church), the word Anglican refers to our roots in the Church of England. This Church, founded by Jesus Christ in Palestine and entrusted to his Apostles, found its way to the British Isles through the godly work of missionaries as early as the second century.

During the turbulent 16th century the Church of England broke with the Church of Rome over a number of papal abuses of authority.

Unlike many of the Churches on the European continent, which in a radical "Protest" completely changed the nature of the Church, the Church of England sought to reform the Church by

eliminating the abuses but not what was good and godly about the catholic religion.

The result is a Catholic AND Reformed Church. The divinely inspired form of Apostolic ministry (bishops, priests and deacons) and the sacraments were retained, while allowing worship in the language of the people, greater participation by non-ordained members of the Church, and allowing the clergy to marry. Scripture also regained a place of prominence in worship and in the everyday life of the people of God.

Perhaps the greatest treasure of our Anglican Heritage has been the Book of Common Prayer. First published in 1549, the English Book of Common Prayer and its various national cousins have saturated the people of the Church with a biblical and beautiful format for prayer. When combined with the King James Bible (which was translated to be used in the Church of England and Authorized by King James) the Book of Common Prayer has had a large influence on English speaking western culture.

Here at St. John's we use the 1928 Book of Common

Prayer, which is the most recent American Book of Common Prayer to follow the format, theology, and poetic language of our 450 year-old prayer book tradition.

Parish

The word “Parish” harkens back to a time when England, and certain American Colonies, were divided up into geographic areas with one Church to serve each area.

Today we have a plethora of choices as to where we worship. If our boundaries were defined by where people live, we would find St. John’s Parish Boundaries stretched beyond Ann Arbor, Flint, and Toledo. Each Sunday people travel upwards of 90 minutes to come to worship at St. John’s because they find here traditional Prayer Book worship, bible-based inspirational teaching, and a world-class traditional musical program that glorifies God in sublime ways. And they also find here other people who are seeking to grow in grace and service, learning to love their neighbor as themselves.

Church

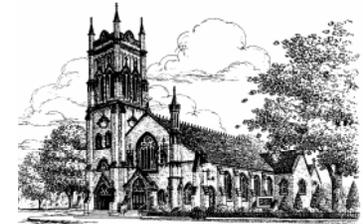
More than just an historic building or an obscure theological entity, St. John’s is a living, vital group of people assembled in Jesus’ name. We seek to glorify Him in our worship, to be changed and strengthened by His grace to live lives of sanctity, and to serve others in His Name. This assembly is literally the ‘Body of Christ’ of which Jesus Christ himself is the Head.

But St. Paul reminds us that the Body is only working when all its parts (that is all of us) are contributing to the common good: through worship, prayer, and service. Although we have our moments of failure, we are seeking to be built up as a living foundation unto the Lord, strengthening that body.

We hope that you will make St. John’s your Traditional Anglican Parish Church home, become a part of this body, and be with us as we serve and worship our Lord.

A Traditional Anglican Parish Church

“What does that mean?”



**St. John’s
Episcopal Church**
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