

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States
www.dmas-acc.org

www.anglicancatholic.org

The Rev. Peter Geromel OHI, Th.M, Vicar
October 2020
<https://stpetersacc.org>

The Vicar's Volleyed Verbiage

It is sometimes hard to tell folks about Anglicanism in America. Sometimes? Usually! I've spent years doing it and even the most satisfying conversations still aren't very satisfying. Where do you start? What you *can* say can make someone feel awkward, even ignorant. "Anglicanism is the third largest Christian tradition in the World." (Really? Where have I been? I thought Baptist was *pretty large*!) "It's the same tradition as the Queen of England." (Wait. Is she a member of your congregation?) "It was once the official religion of Virginia." (I thought Virginia's official religion was Christian!) "It's like the Episcopal Church but more Biblical, more Orthodox - more sane." (Episcopal? That's like Presbyterian, right?) Try a lengthy explanation and you've already lost them - probably.

When I was dating, one young woman I talked with said, "We learned about the English Reformation in Christian school, but I never thought about it still existing." Fair enough! A recent World Religions textbook outlined that there are four types of Christianity: Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican. I get the author's point. But a fourth type of Christianity isn't very helpful either. They might confuse us with Mormons.

It's really a matter of gentle education. Below is what I've put on the website and it *should* work on a website (along with what has been borrowed from the ACC website.) I think it more than does the trick, actually.

A familiar church

The Anglican church tradition is well-known to you, whether you realize it or not. It is the church of writers like Shakespeare, Jane Austen, the Scotsman Walter Scott, and detective thrillers Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers. John and Charles Wesley were Anglican priests the whole of their ministries. Numbering among Anglican ministers were authors Jonathan Swift of Ireland, who wrote Gulliver's Travels, and Lewis Carroll, who wrote Alice in Wonderland. C.S. Lewis, perhaps the best-known Christian writer of the 20th century, said, "I am a very ordinary layman of the Church of England." Theologian J.I. Packer was one. So is Alister McGrath and Bishop N.T. Wright. George Washington, Robert E. Lee, Edmund Burke, William Wilberforce, who abolished the slave trade in the British Empire - resilient and persevering characters of the past - all of them were unpretentious Christians living their faith the best they could, in "quietness and confidence," and in the Anglican way.

With familiar worship

The Book of Common Prayer and Anglican worship is familiar to you as well. Its phrases and terms have become almost as important in the English language as the King James Bible (and that version too is read from every Sunday by Anglican Catholics). "To have and to hold . . . for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health . . .," "Erred and strayed," "Ashes to ashes, Dust to dust," "We commit his body to the deep," "Here endeth the lesson," all these are from the Book of Common Prayer. Anglican hymns like Amazing Grace or O Come, O Come Emmanuel mark the times and seasons in your life. They

are a common cultural heritage and it is no surprise that the words are like old friends. Many denominations in the 20th century borrowed heavily from the Prayer Book in their worship services - the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (1947), The Methodist Book of Worship (1964), The Lutheran Common Service Book (1917) - to name just a few. Some have remarked in surprise after visiting that they grew up practically worshipping with the Book of Common Prayer and never knew it!

Vestry is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 pm. There will be a Mass prior to this at 7 pm.

Sunday School has begun. There is Adult Sunday School on The Book of Revelation and a young people's Sunday school as well. Please invite some to join us.

St. Michael (patron saint of law enforcement) **Prayer Cards** were delivered to be handed out to officers and deputies of Christiansburg, with the grateful appreciation of our parish.

PRC Banquets were a success. Thanks to those who helped organize and host, especially the Slaytons and the Paisleys!

Diocesan Synod assembled in Leesburg, Virginia late last month. One major initiative of the Diocese is a new job position. A "Canon Missioner" will be hired who will be paid full time to plant churches in Maryland, Virginia or West Virginia, hopefully planting five churches in five years. Please pray for a suitable candidate.

Noonday Mass on Thursday will resume on October 8th.

8 o'clock service, with Morning Prayer preceding Mass will begin on October 11th.

Blessing of Animals. Traditionally around St. Francis Day (Oct. 4) there is a blessing of Animals. We did not do it this year, but Fr. Geromel will be happy to come 'round your house and bless your pets. Just ask!

OCTOBER, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction				[1]	[2]	[3]
[4] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XVII	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8] 12 noon H.C.	[9]	[10]
[11] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XVIII	[12]	[13]	[14]	[15] 12 noon H.C.	[16]	[17]
[18] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS ST. LUKE TRINITY XIX	[19]	[20]	[21] 7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry	[22] 12 noon H.C.	[23]	[24]
[25] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS TRINITY XX	[26]	[27]	[28]	[29] 12 noon H.C.	[30]	[31]

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Please — If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SECURE YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT!

Week beginning Sunday →	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25	November 1
Altar Guild	B. Higginbotham	M. Slayton	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham	M. Slayton
	J. Butterfield	C. deRosset	V. Williams	J. Butterfield	C. deRosset
Coffee Hour	--	--	--	--	--
Ushers	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--
Epistoler	C. von Claparede	P. Williams	G. Terrell	A. Butterfield	T. Paisley
Server	P. Williams	P. Williams	P. Williams	C. von Claparede	P. Williams
Crucifer	W. Paisley	C. von Claparede	P. Williams	W. Paisley	W. Paisley

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2020 Vestry: Allen Butterfield, Ted Paisley, Phil Pappas, Marnie Slayton, George Terrell, Clemens von Claparede