HOLY CROSS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Understanding Anglican Tradition

Debunking the Top 10 Misconceptions

By The Venerable Dr. John Mozingo

Holy Cross Anglican Church
Winterville, North Carolina

October 2026

Contents

Introduction 3

1. Anglicanism Is the Same as Roman Catholicism 4

2. Anglicans Do Not Believe in the Bible 5

3. Anglicanism Is Not Evangelical 6

4. All Anglicans Are Liberal 7

5. Anglicans Do Not Believe in the Sacraments 9

6. Anglicanism Lacks a Clear Identity 10

7. Anglicans Are Just Protestants 12

8. Anglican Worship Is Always Traditional 13

9. Anglican Services Are Boring 15

10. Anglicanism Is Exclusively English 16

Conclusion 18

Sources and Further Reading 19

Visit Holy Cross 20

An introduction to Anglican belief and worship from Holy Cross Anglican Church.

Introduction

Understanding the Anglican tradition can often be clouded by misconceptions and misunderstandings. Anglicanism, as a rich and diverse tradition within Christianity, offers a distinctive blend of liturgical heritage, theological depth, and a commitment to both ancient practices and contemporary relevance. However, due to its historical and cultural nuances, many people hold incorrect beliefs about what it means to be Anglican.

This guide, “Understanding Anglican Tradition: Debunking the Top 10 Misconceptions,” aims to clarify these misunderstandings and provide a clearer perspective on the Anglican way. Whether you are new to Christianity, exploring different Christian traditions, or even a lifelong Anglican, this resource will help you see the beauty and complexity of Anglicanism.

In this guide, we will address common myths: that Anglicanism is identical to Roman Catholicism, that Anglicans do not take the Bible seriously, and that Anglican services are boring and monotonous. By the end, you will have a deeper appreciation for the Anglican tradition and a better understanding of its identity.

Join us on this journey to uncover the truth behind these common misconceptions and to explore the rich tapestry of beliefs and practices that make up the Anglican tradition. Whether you’re curious about the sacraments, the diversity of worship styles, or the global reach of Anglicanism, this guide is designed to enlighten and inspire.

This guide introduces the wider Anglican tradition. References to other churches, teachers, and organizations illustrate that tradition; Holy Cross’s present ecclesiastical home is the Anglican Reformed Catholic Church.

MISCONCEPTION 01

Anglicanism Is the Same as Roman Catholicism

One of the most common misconceptions about Anglicanism is that it is essentially the same as Roman Catholicism. This belief arises due to the visible similarities in liturgy, ecclesiastical structure, and certain traditions. However, while Anglicanism retains many elements of Catholic heritage, it is a distinct tradition with its own unique identity.

Historical Roots and Distinctions

Anglicanism took its distinctive shape during the English Reformation in the sixteenth century, while retaining roots in the much older Christian Church in England. The reformed English Church sought to preserve the catholic, or universal, faith while addressing errors and abuses. Its inheritance is often described as both catholic and reformed. The expression via media, or “middle way,” is one way Anglicans have described this relationship. [1]

Theological Differences

Both traditions share common creeds, including the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds, while differing on important questions of doctrine and authority. Anglicans emphasize the authority of Scripture, read with the help of the Church’s tradition and reason. Anglican and Roman Catholic accounts of papal authority and some aspects of sacramental theology also differ.

Liturgy and Worship

Anglican liturgy, particularly as found in the Book of Common Prayer, shares much with the wider catholic liturgical inheritance and also reflects the English Reformation. The Prayer Book’s use of the language of the people and its extensive readings from Scripture helped shape Anglican worship. Today Roman Catholics also commonly worship in local languages and hear Scripture in the liturgy; these features are not exclusive to Anglicanism. [10]

Governance and Authority

Anglican churches are episcopal in structure, meaning they are led by bishops, together with priests and deacons. They do not recognize universal papal jurisdiction. Within the Anglican Communion, member churches govern their own affairs through their constitutions and canons; the authority of a primate or archbishop varies by church. The Archbishop of Canterbury has a historic ministry of unity, rather than universal jurisdiction. Anglican churches outside that Communion have their own ecclesiastical structures. [2]

By understanding these distinctions, it becomes clear that while Anglicanism shares some common ground with Roman Catholicism, it stands as a unique tradition within the broader Christian faith. This clarification helps to appreciate the richness and diversity of the Anglican tradition and its particular contributions.

MISCONCEPTION 02

Anglicans Do Not Believe in the Bible

A prevalent misconception is that Anglicans do not take the Bible seriously. This couldn’t be further from the truth. The Anglican tradition places a significant emphasis on Scripture, viewing it as a cornerstone of faith and practice.

Scripture at the Heart of Worship

Anglican worship is deeply rooted in Scripture. The Book of Common Prayer is filled with biblical language, prayers, psalms, and readings. The Daily Office and the Eucharist place the reading and hearing of Scripture at the heart of the Church’s common life.

Scripture Tradition and Reason

Anglican theology often speaks of Scripture, tradition, and reason. Scripture holds the primary place: tradition and reason help the Church interpret and apply its teaching. The familiar “three-legged stool” is a later illustration associated with this approach, rather than a metaphor used by Richard Hooker himself. His discussion gives first place to what Scripture plainly teaches. [3]

Educational Focus

Anglicanism has a strong tradition of biblical scholarship and education. Seminaries and theological colleges within the Anglican Communion prioritize the study of Scripture. Clergy are trained to engage deeply with the Bible, ensuring that their preaching and teaching are grounded in a robust understanding of biblical texts.

Examples of Anglican Biblical Engagement

- **Bible Studies and Small Groups:** Many Anglican churches host regular Bible studies and small groups where parishioners can delve into the Scriptures together.
- **Lectionary:** The Anglican lectionary is a schedule of biblical readings used throughout the liturgical year, ensuring that congregations engage with a wide range of biblical texts.

Prominent Anglican Figures

Historically, influential biblical scholars and theologians have emerged from the Anglican tradition, including N. T. Wright and John Stott. Their works continue to contribute to biblical studies and Christian thought.

“Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation.”

Article VI of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion [4]

By emphasizing the centrality of Scripture in Anglican worship, theology, and education, this section clearly refutes the misconception that Anglicans do not believe in the Bible. Instead, it highlights the profound respect and commitment Anglicans have towards the Holy Scriptures.

MISCONCEPTION 03

Anglicanism Is Not Evangelical

Another common misconception is that Anglicanism is not evangelical or mission-oriented. In reality, the Anglican tradition has a strong evangelical component and a rich history of missionary work and evangelism.

Historical Evangelical Movements

Throughout its history, the Anglican tradition has seen the rise of significant evangelical movements. The 18th-century Evangelical Revival, led by figures such as John Wesley and George Whitefield, had a profound impact on the Anglican Church. These movements emphasized personal conversion, the authority of Scripture, and active evangelism.

Missionary Endeavors

Anglican missionaries have played an important role in sharing the Christian faith worldwide. Church Mission Society (CMS), founded in 1799, is one example of this long missionary tradition. Christian communities across Africa, Asia, and other regions have grown through both cross-cultural mission and the leadership and witness of local Christians. [5]

Contemporary Evangelical Expressions

Today, many Anglican churches and organizations continue to emphasize evangelical principles. The Anglican Communion includes a significant evangelical wing, particularly prominent in regions like Africa, Asia, and parts of North America. These communities prioritize evangelism, biblical teaching, and outreach.

Notable Evangelical Anglicans

Evangelical Anglicans such as John Stott have made substantial contributions to Christian thought and practice. Their writings and teaching continue to influence Anglicanism and the broader evangelical movement.

Evangelical Activities and Programs

- **Alpha Course:** Developed by Holy Trinity Brompton, an Anglican church in London, the Alpha Course is a widely-used tool for evangelism and discipleship, adopted by many churches worldwide.
- **Youth Outreach:** Anglican churches often engage in vibrant youth ministries, focusing on evangelism and discipleship for young people.
- **Community Engagement:** Many Anglican congregations are involved in local outreach programs, offering support and sharing the gospel within their communities.

By highlighting the evangelical aspects of Anglicanism, this section dispels the misconception that Anglicanism is not evangelical. It showcases the tradition’s commitment to evangelism, missionary work, and outreach, both historically and in contemporary practice.

MISCONCEPTION 04

All Anglicans Are Liberal

A common misconception is that all Anglicans hold liberal theological and social views. While some Anglican churches and members do have liberal perspectives, the wider Anglican tradition encompasses a range of theological and social positions.

A Broad Spectrum of Beliefs

Anglicans can be found across the theological spectrum, from conservative to liberal. This range of views makes it important to ask what a particular church actually teaches, rather than assume that every Anglican congregation holds the same position.

Geographical and Cultural Diversity

Anglican churches are found across Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and Oceania. Their cultural settings bring different perspectives and practices. Theological convictions also vary within countries and regions, so geography alone does not tell us what a church believes.

Theological Debates and Unity

Theological debates within Anglicanism are not new. Anglicans share an inheritance of Scripture, creeds, worship, and sacraments, but serious disagreements have sometimes impaired communion or led to separate church bodies. Shared heritage does not mean that every Anglican church is institutionally united or agrees on every doctrine.

Our Parish and the ARCC

Holy Cross Anglican Church is a parish of the Anglican Reformed Catholic Church (ARCC), within the Anglican Diocese of Saint Martin of Tours. The ARCC emphasizes biblical faithfulness, doctrinal clarity, accountable leadership, and continuity with the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Our parish's life is rooted in Scripture, the historic creeds, common prayer, and the sacramental life of the Church. [6, 6a, 6b]

Examples of Diverse Views

- **Social Issues:** Anglican churches differ on matters such as marriage and ordination. These disagreements can affect relationships between churches.
- **Theological Perspectives:** Anglo-Catholics emphasize the Church's catholic inheritance and sacramental life; Evangelicals stress biblical authority, conversion, and mission; other Anglicans place particular emphasis on theological breadth and contemporary questions. These emphases can overlap.

Conviction and Charity

Anglicans can hold firm theological convictions while treating other Christians with charity. A church's commitments should be understood through its own teaching, worship, and pastoral life.

Anglicanism is not monolithically liberal. Understanding its diversity helps us distinguish the wider tradition from the specific convictions and ecclesiastical home of a local parish.

MISCONCEPTION 05

Anglicans Do Not Believe in the Sacraments

Another misconception is that Anglicans do not emphasize the sacraments. In reality, the sacraments are central to Anglican worship and theology, with a particular focus on Baptism and the Eucharist.

Sacramental Theology

Anglicanism holds to a sacramental theology that recognizes the sacraments as outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace. This belief is rooted in the teachings of the early Church and is reflected in the Anglican liturgical tradition.

The Two Dominical Sacraments

The Anglican tradition gives a distinctive place to the two sacraments instituted by Christ in the Gospel: Baptism and the Eucharist, or Holy Communion. The historic Prayer Book and Article XXV distinguish these from the other five rites commonly called sacraments. [4, 7]

- **Baptism:** The sacrament of initiation joins us to Christ and his Church. It is associated with cleansing from sin, new birth, and incorporation into the Body of Christ. Anglicans baptize both infants and adults.
- **Eucharist:** Also known as the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion, the Eucharist is central to Anglican worship. In it the faithful receive Christ's Body and Blood and the benefits of his sacrifice. Anglicans have used different theological explanations of Christ's presence. Article XXVIII rejects transubstantiation as it describes that doctrine, while Anglican teaching and devotion include a range of understandings of the Real Presence. The Eucharist is celebrated regularly, often weekly. [4, 7]

Other Sacramental Rites

The other five are Confirmation, Penance or Reconciliation, Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. The historic Anglican distinction concerns the unique place of Baptism and the Eucharist as sacraments of the Gospel; it does not make the other rites unimportant. In its Anglican-Catholic life, Holy Cross speaks of the seven sacraments of the Church, with Baptism and the Eucharist at the center. [4, 6, 7]

Liturgical Emphasis

The sacraments are deeply embedded in Anglican liturgy. The Book of Common Prayer contains detailed liturgies for the sacraments, reflecting their significance in Anglican worship. These liturgies emphasize the communal and transformative nature of the sacraments, inviting the faithful to participate fully in the life of the church.

Educational Focus

Anglican churches often provide catechetical instruction to ensure that members understand the meaning and importance of the sacraments. This instruction is particularly emphasized in preparation for Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion.

“An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.”

The Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer [7]

By emphasizing the centrality of the sacraments in Anglican worship and theology, this section refutes the misconception that Anglicans do not believe in the sacraments. It highlights the rich sacramental life that is integral to the Anglican Tradition.

MISCONCEPTION 06

Anglicanism Lacks a Clear Identity

Another misconception is that Anglicanism lacks a clear identity. In reality, Anglicanism has a well-defined identity rooted in its history, liturgical practices, and theological foundations.

Historical Foundations

Anglicanism traces its distinctive historical development through the English Reformation and its roots through the Church that preceded it. Its identity holds together the catholic inheritance of the ancient Church and the reforming commitments expressed in its historic formularies. [1]

The Book of Common Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is central to Anglican identity. The first English Prayer Book appeared in 1549, principally shaped by Thomas Cranmer with other church leaders. Later editions and local revisions carry this heritage into the worship of Anglican churches around the world. The Prayer Book is cherished for the beauty, depth, and biblical character of its prayers. [8]

The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion

The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion are a historic doctrinal formulary of the English Reformation. They address major theological questions, affirm core Christian doctrines, and explain distinctive Reformation convictions. Their precise canonical standing varies among Anglican churches. Along with the Prayer Book and Ordinal, they are part of the inheritance through which Holy Cross understands its faith. [4, 6]

Scripture Tradition and Reason

The authority of Scripture, the received wisdom of the Church, and the faithful use of reason all shape Anglican theological reflection. Scripture holds the primary place; tradition and reason serve its interpretation and application. This pattern is more precise than treating the three as interchangeable sources of authority. [3, 4]

Liturgical Worship

Anglican identity is deeply connected to its liturgical worship. The regular celebration of the Eucharist, the use of a lectionary, and the observance of the Church Year (including seasons like Advent, Lent, and Easter) are key aspects of Anglican practice. This structured worship fosters a sense of continuity and connection with the historical Church.

Sacramental Life

As discussed in the previous section, the sacraments, particularly Baptism and the Eucharist, are central to Anglican worship and theology. The sacraments are seen as vital means of grace, drawing believers into deeper communion with God and one another.

Commitment to Unity and Liturgical Diversity

Anglicanism values both unity and diversity, particularly in religious worship. It strives to maintain a balance between upholding core doctrines and allowing for a range of liturgical expressions. This commitment is reflected in the Anglican Communion, a global fellowship of autonomous churches that share a common heritage and mission.

Examples of Anglican Identity in Practice

- **Common Worship:** The use of common liturgical texts fosters unity across diverse congregations.
- **Inclusive Fellowship:** Anglicanism’s broad and inclusive approach allows for varying expressions of worship within the bounds of its core beliefs.

- **Global Impact:** The Anglican Communion's involvement in social justice, education, and healthcare worldwide demonstrates its commitment to living out the gospel in practical ways.

By outlining the core elements of Anglican identity, this section refutes the misconception that Anglicanism lacks a clear identity. It highlights the rich historical, liturgical, and theological foundations that define Anglicanism and shape its practice and belief.

MISCONCEPTION 07

Anglicans Are Just Protestants

Another misconception is that describing Anglicans simply as "Protestants" tells the whole story. Anglicanism was shaped by the Reformation and also maintains continuity with the ancient catholic Church. Many Anglicans describe this inheritance as both catholic and reformed.

Historical Context

During the English Reformation, the Church of England broke with papal jurisdiction while retaining bishops, priests, and deacons, the historic creeds, and a liturgical and sacramental life. Its reforming commitments were expressed through Scripture, preaching, the Prayer Book, and doctrinal formularies. [1]

The Via Media

The term via media, or "middle way," is often used to describe the Anglican approach. It can express a desire to hold together catholic continuity and reformation under the authority of Scripture. Anglicans have understood this phrase in different ways over time; it should not suggest that truth is simply a compromise between opposing positions.

Liturgical and Sacramental Practices

Anglican worship has a liturgical structure with a strong emphasis on the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist. It also reflects Reformation commitments through biblical preaching, extensive Scripture readings, and worship in the language of the people. These features belong together within the Anglican inheritance.

Theological Balance

Anglican theology seeks a balance between the authority of Scripture, the traditions of the Church, and the use of reason. This balance allows Anglicans to engage with a wide range of theological perspectives while maintaining core Christian beliefs.

Governance and Authority

Anglican churches are led by bishops within their own ecclesiastical structures. The Archbishop of Canterbury has a historic role in the Anglican Communion but does not govern every church that identifies as Anglican. Holy Cross belongs to the ARCC and receives its ecclesiastical oversight within that church. [2, 6a, 6b]

Examples of the Via Media in Practice

- **Worship Services:** Anglican services often feature elements like the use of a lectionary, structured prayers, and the celebration of the Eucharist, blending Catholic and Reformed practices.
- **Theological Education:** Anglican seminaries teach both ancient Church traditions and modern theological insights, preparing clergy to navigate the via media in their ministries.
- **Ecumenical Relationships:** Anglicanism's middle way fosters dialogue and cooperation with both Catholic and Protestant churches, emphasizing commonalities and respecting differences.

Describing Anglicanism as catholic and reformed helps explain its distinctive inheritance. Its historic worship, sacramental life, biblical commitments, and episcopal order together give a fuller picture than a single label can provide.

MISCONCEPTION 08

Anglican Worship Is Always Traditional

A common misconception is that Anglican worship is uniformly traditional and old-fashioned. In reality, Anglican worship encompasses a variety of styles, ranging from very traditional to contemporary and charismatic.

Traditional Worship

Traditional Anglican worship is characterized by its use of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), formal liturgies, and a structured order of service. This style often includes:

- **Choral Music:** Traditional hymns and anthems sung by choirs.
- **Vestments:** Clergy wearing traditional robes and vestments.
- **Liturgical Practices:** Use of incense, candles, and processions.

Contemporary Worship

Many Anglican churches have adopted contemporary worship styles to engage modern congregations. This approach often includes:

- **Modern Music:** Use of contemporary Christian music, worship bands, and modern hymns.
- **Casual Atmosphere:** Less formal attire for clergy and congregants, with a more relaxed setting.
- **Interactive Elements:** Incorporation of multimedia, interactive prayers, and contemporary language in liturgy.

Charismatic Worship

Charismatic expressions within Anglicanism place particular emphasis on the gifts and work of the Holy Spirit. Practices may include:

- **Praise and Worship:** Extended periods of praise and worship music, often with a lively and energetic atmosphere.
- **Gifts of the Spirit:** Emphasis on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including speaking in tongues, prophecy, and healing.
- **Personal Testimonies:** Sharing of personal stories and testimonies as part of the service.

Blended Worship

Many Anglican churches offer blended worship services that combine traditional and contemporary elements. This approach aims to appeal to a broad range of worship preferences within a single congregation. Features may include:

- **Mixed Music Styles:** Combining traditional hymns with contemporary worship songs.
- **Common Prayer:** Drawing on authorized liturgical forms while including different musical and devotional expressions.
- **Congregational Participation:** Encouraging active participation through responses, prayers, and lay leadership.

Global Diversity

The global nature of the Anglican Communion means that worship styles can also reflect cultural diversity. For example:

- **African Anglican Worship:** Some congregations include drumming, dancing, and expressive singing; others use quieter or more formal styles.
- **Asian Anglican Worship:** Services may use local languages, instruments, and musical traditions.
- **Latin American Anglican Worship:** Congregations may include local music and cultural forms alongside inherited liturgical patterns.

Anglican worship has many expressions. At Holy Cross, the emphasis is reverent worship in the Anglican-Catholic tradition, centered on Word and Sacrament. The range of styles across Anglicanism need not obscure the character of a particular parish. [6]

MISCONCEPTION 09

Anglican Services Are Boring

Another misconception is that Anglican services are dull and monotonous. Anglican worship can be deeply spiritual and engaging, drawing people into prayer, Scripture, and the sacramental life of the Church. Its purpose is to help us worship God and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Rich Liturgical Tradition

Anglican services are deeply rooted in a rich liturgical tradition that dates back centuries. This tradition provides a structured and meaningful framework for worship, including elements such as:

- **The Eucharist:** Central to Anglican worship, the Eucharist (or Holy Communion) is a profound and sacred act of remembering Christ’s sacrifice and receiving His grace.
- **Prayer Book Services:** The Book of Common Prayer offers beautifully crafted prayers and liturgies that have stood the test of time, providing a sense of continuity and connection with the historical Church.

Engaging Worship Practices

Anglican worship is designed to engage all the senses and foster a deep spiritual experience. Some of the engaging practices include:

- **Music:** From traditional hymns to contemporary worship songs, music plays a vital role in Anglican services, enhancing the worship experience.
- **Visual Elements:** Use of candles, vestments, stained glass, and religious art to create a visually inspiring worship space.
- **Symbolic Actions:** Processions, kneeling, crossing oneself, and the use of incense can add depth and meaning to the worship experience.

Community and Participation

Anglican worship emphasizes the importance of community and active participation. This sense of belonging and involvement can make services lively and engaging:

- **Responsive Readings:** Congregational responses during prayers and readings foster a sense of participation and engagement.
- **Lay Involvement:** Lay readers, intercessors, and eucharistic ministers play active roles in the service, contributing to a dynamic worship environment.

Seasonal and Special Services

The Anglican Church follows the liturgical calendar, which includes a variety of seasonal and special services that bring vibrancy and variety to worship:

- **Advent and Christmas:** Special services and events, such as Lessons and Carols, celebrate the anticipation and joy of Christ's birth.
- **Lent and Easter:** Reflective and celebratory services, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Vigil, provide opportunities for deep spiritual reflection and celebration.
- **Feast Days and Saints' Days:** Celebrations of important saints and holy days add variety and richness to the worship calendar.

Youth and Family Services

Many Anglican churches offer services specifically designed for youth and families, incorporating elements that appeal to younger congregants:

- **Children's Sermons:** Interactive and engaging sermons designed for children.
- **Family Services:** Services that include contemporary music, interactive prayers, and activities suitable for all ages.

The richness of Anglican worship is discovered through participation: listening, praying, singing, receiving, and learning the rhythm of the Christian year. Familiar words and actions can deepen our attention to God over time.

MISCONCEPTION 10

Anglicanism Is Exclusively English

A common misconception is that Anglicanism is exclusively English, both in origin and practice. In reality, while Anglicanism originated in England, it has become a global tradition with diverse expressions and practices across many cultures and countries.

Historical Spread

Anglicanism took its distinctive form in England and spread through missionary work, colonial expansion, migration, and the witness of local Christians. Its global history includes both the complexity of colonial relationships and the growth of churches led by the people of their own regions. [1]

The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion is a worldwide fellowship of autonomous member churches with historic ties to Canterbury. Its official directory currently lists 42 member churches, often called provinces, and five extra-provincial areas, with a presence in more than 165 countries. The wider Anglican tradition also includes churches that are not members of that Communion. [2]

Cultural Diversity

Anglicanism adapts to the cultural contexts in which it is practiced, leading to a rich tapestry of worship styles, liturgical practices, and theological emphases. Examples include:

- **Africa:** Churches in countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda are important centers of Anglican life, mission, and leadership.
- **Asia:** Anglican and united churches in countries such as India, Pakistan, and South Korea worship in local languages and cultural settings.
- **Latin America:** Anglican congregations may incorporate local music and cultural expressions into their common worship.
- **Oceania:** Churches in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands reflect diverse Indigenous and settler histories and communities.

Global Impact

Anglican churches around the world are deeply involved in various forms of ministry and outreach, including education, healthcare, and social justice. This global engagement reflects the Anglican commitment to living out the gospel in practical ways.

Notable Figures and Movements

- **Archbishop Desmond Tutu:** The South African Anglican leader is remembered for his role in the struggle against apartheid and his advocacy for human rights.
- **Bishop Michael Curry:** Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church from 2015 to 2024, known for his preaching and emphasis on reconciliation. [9]
- **Mothers' Union:** An international Anglican movement supporting families and communities. These examples illustrate the wider Anglican world; they do not identify Holy Cross's church leadership.

Examples of Global Anglican Practices

- **Worship Services:** Anglican worship around the world may include indigenous music, local languages, and cultural rituals alongside traditional liturgical elements.
- **Festivals and Celebrations:** Anglican communities celebrate major Christian festivals like Christmas and Easter, as well as local and national holidays, incorporating cultural traditions into their observances.

By highlighting the global nature of the Anglican Communion, this section dispels the misconception that Anglicanism is exclusively English. It showcases the tradition's rich cultural diversity and its vibrant presence around the world.

Conclusion

Understanding the Anglican tradition requires dispelling common misconceptions and appreciating its rich diversity and depth. Anglicanism is a living Christian tradition characterized by its historical roots, biblical commitments, and liturgical and sacramental life. By exploring these ten misconceptions, we hope you have gained a clearer perspective on what it means to be Anglican.

Its catholic and reformed inheritance, its attention to Scripture, tradition, and reason, and its global presence reflect a tradition that is both ancient and contemporary. Anglicans express that inheritance in different ways, and their churches do not agree on every question. To understand a parish, it helps to encounter its worship, teaching, and common life.

We invite you to explore this inheritance at Holy Cross Anglican Church. Whether you are considering joining an Anglican church, seeking to understand your own Anglican heritage, or simply curious about the tradition, you are welcome to come, pray, and learn with us.

Sources and Further Reading

The sources below support historical and factual references in this guide. Scripture, the historic creeds, and the Church's authorized liturgical texts remain the foundation for further study. Online information checked October 17, 2026.

1. Anglican Communion Office. History of Anglicanism.

2. Anglican Communion Office. Member Churches.

3. Richard Hooker. Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, V.8.2, reproduced and discussed by the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

4. Church of England. Articles of Religion, especially Articles VI, XXV, and XXVIII.

5. Church Mission Society. Our Story.

6. Holy Cross Anglican Church. Parish faith and worship.

6a. Anglican Reformed Catholic Church. Official church website.

6b. Anglican Reformed Catholic Church. Anglican Diocese of Saint Martin of Tours parish directory.

7. Church of England. A Catechism, Book of Common Prayer.

8. The Episcopal Church. Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2024, The First Book of Common Prayer.

9. The Episcopal Church. Episcopal Church welcomes Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, November 2, 2024.

10. Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Liturgiam authenticam, especially sections 34-36.

Visit Holy Cross

Holy Cross Anglican Church

A parish of the Anglican Reformed Catholic Church
Anglican Diocese of Saint Martin of Tours

Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m.

2668 Church Street
Winterville, North Carolina 28590

holycross-anglicanchurch.com

252-689-7355

john.mozingo@holycross-anglicanchurch.com

Visit the parish website for current service information and ways to get in touch.