

Inquirers' Course

Christ Church Detroit

SYLLABUS

Thursdays, March 13–April 10, 2025

7:00-9:00 p.m. Conversation (Zoom available)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85967481520>

Are you new or new-ish to the Episcopal Church and want to explore what it's all about? Are you curious about making an adult affirmation of faith (baptism, confirmation, reception into The Episcopal Church)? Are you interested in becoming an official member of Christ Church? Do you want to connect and meet others? In the Inquirers' Course, we explore the stories, prayers, people, and ministries of The Episcopal Church, and Christ Church Detroit specifically.

Calendar

- March 13, in Cary Lounge (Zoom available)
- March 20, in Cary Lounge (Zoom available)
- March 27, half in Cary Lounge and half in Sibley House (Zoom available for both)
- April 3, in-person tours & Instructed Eucharist in sanctuary: no Zoom
- April 10, in Cary Lounge (Zoom available)

Recommended Resources

Assigned reading is limited, but everyone is encouraged to explore further according to their time and interests:

- *The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)* ([Amazon link](#)), also at www.bcponline.org
- Glossary of terms for the Episcopal Church: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/>
- *Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church* by Megan Castellan ([Amazon link](#))
- *Opening the Prayer Book* by Jeffrey Lee ([Amazon link](#))

Podcasts & Videos to Explore

- *And Also With You* with the Revs. Lizzie McManus-Dail & Laura Di Panfilo: <https://andalsowithyou.simplecast.com/>
- *For People* with Bishop Rob Wright: <https://forpeople.buzzsprout.com/>
- *The Way of Love* with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry: <https://media.episcopalchurch.org/podcasts/show/the-way-of-love-with-bishop-michael-curry/>
- *ChurchNext* with many special guests: <https://churchnextblog.wordpress.com/>
- *Forward Day by Day* podcasts (daily prayers & reflections): <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/Item/15054/our-podcasts>

Course Schedule

March 13

6:00 p.m. Meet & Greet at Shelter Week Dinner (Ledyard Hall)

7:00-9:00 p.m. Introductions and Faith Journeys (Cary Lounge)

- What brings you here? What are you hoping to learn throughout this course?
- What treasures of faith do you bring, and what treasures do you seek?
- Locate in the [BCP](#): An Order for Compline (night time prayer), pp. 127-135
- Pray Compline together

To Prepare for Next Week:

- Obtain and read through p. 23 in Megan Castellan's *Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church*
- Watch "[What is the Episcopal Church?](#)" with Kate Harmon Siberine (4 min) and explore some of her other videos
- Ask some questions of Ask Cathy AI, a virtual guide to the Episcopal Church : <https://www.askcathy.ai/>

March 20

7:00-9:00 p.m. The Book of Common Prayer (Cary Lounge & Zoom)

- Introductions, reflections, and questions from last week
- What is common prayer?
- Explore the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and its history
- Pray Compline together ([BCP](#): An Order for Compline, pp. 127-135)

To Learn More:

- Read [Eucharistic Prayer A \(BCP 367\) with scripture annotations](#)
- Read/peruse *Opening the Prayer Book* by Jeffrey Lee ([Amazon link](#))
- Watch "[Farmer Refuted](#)" from *Hamilton*, featuring the character Samuel Seabury

To Prepare for Next Week:

- Read pp. 23-54 in Castellan's *Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church*
- Read about the history of a [vestry](#)
- Get to know the [2025 Christ Church Detroit Vestry](#)
- Explore [Governance of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan](#)
- Explore [Episcopal Church Governance](#) and [Polity](#)
- Explore <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/member-churches.aspx>

March 27

6:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner with Vestry (Cary Lounge)

6:30-7:00 p.m. Conversation & Bible Study with Vestry (Cary Lounge & Zoom)

7:00-7:30 p.m. Intro to Episcopal Governance with Vestry (Cary Lounge & Zoom)

7:30-9:00 p.m.

- Ministries and Leadership (Sibley House & Zoom)
- Pray Compline together ([BCP](#): An Order for Compline, pp. 127-135)

To Prepare for Next Week:

- Read pp. 55-82 in Castellan's *Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church*
- Check out the How2Charist (digital instructed Eucharist: How2Charist.com)
- Read "[Our Story](#)" by Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook

April 3: Our Spaces, Materials, and History

7:00-9:00 p.m.

- Tour of Buildings
- Instructed Eucharist in Sanctuary

To Prepare for Next Week:

- Read pp. 83-96 in Castellan's *Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church*
- Please take the spiritual gifts quiz online: <https://spiritualgiftquiz.org/> and be ready to discuss your results

April 10: Spiritual Gifts and Continuing our Faith Journeys

7:00-9:00 p.m.

- What have we learned about our spiritual gifts?
- Where is our faith journey leading us next?
- Pray Compline together ([BCP](#): An Order for Compline, pp. 127-135)