

St. Paul's

A Tiny Dictionary of Episcopal Words

The Book of Common Prayer – First compiled and written by Thomas Cranmer in 1549 in England, the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) guides our worship. The Book of Common Prayer is a guidebook for lay people and for clergy. Bishop Cranmer's objective in the first BCP was to make religious practices fully accessible to all people. The BCP exemplifies primary ideas of the Protestant Reformation, such as use of vernacular language (the people's language) and providing a framework for all people to incorporate the reading of scripture in their daily lives. Approximately half of the words in the Book of Common Prayer come directly from Holy Scripture. At the same time, the BCP holds to many catholic ideals, including the understanding of the transcendence of the divine presence of God and an emphasis on sacramental activity.

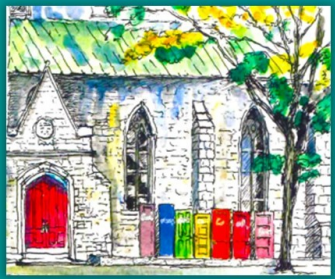
Canticle – A hymn of praise whose text is taken from Holy Scripture. In the Episcopal Church we have several dozen canticle texts, each of which may be either spoken or sung using a variety of musical settings.

Church – We have three uses for this word. 1. The church is the entire group of followers of Christ, all over the world. 2. *Church* is also a name for discrete groups of followers of Christ, gathering in one place to worship each week or day or month. 3. *Church* is also a name for the group of buildings used by the group of followers of Christ.

Celebrant – The clergy person, such as a priest or bishop, who is leading the celebration of the Eucharist.

Chancel – The elevated portion where the choir sits and where the altar is located.

Enriching Our Worship – In 1998 The Episcopal Church began publishing a set of supplemental worship materials in a series of books titled *Enriching Our Worship* (EOW). Some of our Eucharistic Prayers and other materials are taken from EOW.



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Continued

Eucharist – From the Greek term *eukharistia*, literally means ‘thanksgiving’. This word sometimes refers to the second half of the service (The Great Thanksgiving), but more often refers to the entire service. Our worship is one, all-encompassing thanksgiving to God.

Episcopalians – Name for members of an Episcopal Church.

Fraction – The moment near the end of the Great Thanksgiving where the celebrant breaks the bread. For Fr. Philip this is the most sacred moment of our worship. The Fraction is observed with a time of silence. In the silence we observe the idea that we have no words to describe God’s reconciliation with humanity through Christ’s activity of being broken, as we are broken.

Liturgy – From the Greek term *leitourgia*, literally means ‘work of the people’. The liturgy is the work of the people, in other words, our worship.

Ministers – All baptized people are considered to be members of Christ’s eternal priesthood, so all participants are encouraged to live fully into their calling as ministers of God’s church.

Narthex – The entrance area in the back of the church.

Nave – The part of the building where the congregation sits. The word is related to an ancient term for ‘boat’. The roof of the nave is shaped like an upside-down boat.

Rite I and Rite II – When the 1979 Book of Common Prayer was created, the Episcopal Church made special provision for those who preferred to continue using the language of the 1928 BCP. These texts are the Rite I texts. The Rite II texts were created in the years leading up to 1979, using the language and theological conceptions prevalent in the 1970s.

Sacristy – The small preparation room adjacent to the chancel. The altar guild and clergy keep materials for use at the altar in the sacristy. In the sacristy, special provisions are made for handling consecrated and sacramental items.

ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE