



# Pilgrims in Christ, 2023-2024

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont

Thursdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3246269791> OR  
in-person: The Rosemont Community Retreat House

*Welcome to Pilgrims in Christ! This process of formation is intended for anyone seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ and immerse themselves in the Christian faith through an Anglican lens. The first six sessions are an introduction to the Anglican way of thinking. Some may choose to participate in just the first six sessions if they are new to the Episcopal Church and desiring to learn more about it. After the first six sessions, we will journey through an introduction to the Christian faith using the book *Seeds of Faith* as our companion and guide.*

*Pilgrims is modeled loosely on the ancient catechumenate, which, historically, prepared catechumens (candidates for baptism). Pilgrims, however, is more broadly conceived and is not strictly intended for catechumens. It is meant to be a way of forming the mind, heart, and body in the Christian Way, both for long-time Christians and those new to Christianity.*

*For each session, there will be a reading that will complement the topic being discussed. The readings from *Seeds of Faith* will be integral to class discussion. Chapters in this book are short and quite readable within one sitting. This excellent and deep book will be a friend on our journey in walking the Way of Jesus. Readings not from *Seeds of Faith* will be posted in the “files” section of the Pilgrims in Christ group in the Realm database.*

## CALENDAR

\*reading found in Realm

+reading from *Seeds of Faith*

### Part One: An Introduction to the Anglican Ethos

Session 1: September 7—What Does It Mean to Be Anglican?

- “The Anglican Consciousness,” ch. 1 in Urban T. Holmes, *What Is Anglicanism?* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 1982)\*

Session 2: September 14—Faith of Our Fathers and Mothers: A Brief History of Anglicanism, with Dr. R. Barry Levis, Professor of History Emeritus at Rollins College

- “The Anglican Spirit,” ch. 1 in Michael Ramsey, *The Anglican Spirit* (New York: Seabury, 2004)\*

*September 21—No class; Lower Merion Deanery event*

September 28—No class; vestry meeting

Session 3: October 5—Bound Together by a Book: Getting to Know the Book of Common Prayer

- “Anglican Prayer Books,” ch. 7 in Charles P. Price and Louis Weil, *Liturgy for Living* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 1979)\*

Session 4: October 12—Anglican Worship

- “Introduction” in James Farwell, *The Liturgy Explained* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 2013)\*

Session 5: October 19—Anglican Music, with Jack Warren Burnam, *Interim Organist & Choirmaster*

- “The Spirituality of Anglican Hymnody: A Twentieth-Century American Perspective,” in *The Hymnal 1982 Companion*, Raymond F. Glover, ed., vol. 1 (New York: The Church Hymnal Corp., 1990)\*

October 26—No class; vestry meeting

November 2—No class; All Souls’ Day Mass at 7 p.m.

Session 6: November 9—The Beauty of Holiness and the Holiness of Beauty

- “Icons of the True,” ch. 2 in Madeleine L’Engle, *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art* (New York: Bantam, 1980)\*

## **Part II: An Introduction to the Christian Faith**

Session 7: November 16—An Introduction to the Bible

- As We Begin; The Hidden Presence of God in All Things+

November 23—No class; Thanksgiving Day

November 30—No class; vestry meeting

Session 8: December 7—How to Read the Bible

- Faith and Fear; Revelation+

Session 9: December 14—The Mystery of the Trinity+

December 21— No class; vestry meeting

December 28—No class; Christmas break

Session 10: January 4—Creation+

Session 11: January 11—Suffering and Evil+

*January 18—No class; vestry meeting*

Session 12: January 25—Jesus as the Incarnate Word+

Session 13: February 1—The Death and Resurrection of Jesus; Salvation+

Session 14: February 8—Grace and Human Flourishing; The Church and the Sacramental Life+

Session 15: February 15—The Sacraments

- “A Sacramental Universe,” ch. 1 in John Macquarrie, *A Guide to the Sacraments* (London: Continuum, 1999)\*

*February 22—No class; vestry meeting*

Session 16: February 29—The Holy Eucharist

- “The Life of the World,” in Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World* (Yonkers, NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2018)\*

Session 17: March 7—The Spirit of Prayer+

Session 18: March 14—Death and the Life to Come; The Communion of Saints and Mary+

*March 21—No class; vestry meeting*

*March 28—No class; Maundy Thursday*

*April 4—no class; Easter Week*

### **Part III: Mystagogia—Living the Christian Faith**

Session 19: April 11—Proclaiming the Good News: Evangelism

- Acts of the Apostles, ch. 17 (preferably the NRSV translation)

*April 18— No class; vestry meeting*

Session 20: April 25—Christian Ethics

- “An Anglican Perspective,” ch. 2 in Timothy F. Sedgwick, *The Christian Moral Life: Practices of Piety* (New York: Seabury, 2008)\*

Session 21: May 2—The Mission Field and the Real Presence of Christ in the Poor

- “Entertaining Angels Unawares: It is More Blessed to Receive,” in Samuel Wells, *A Future That’s Bigger than the Past* (Norwich, UK: Canterbury Press, 2019)\*

*May 9—No class; Sung Mass on Ascension Day at 7 p.m*

*May 16— No class; vestry meeting*

Session 22: May 23—Discerning Gifts for Ministry

- Complete spiritual gifts assessment.

Session 23: May 30—Final Questions and Conclusion

- Bring your unresolved questions!