

Sunday, October 14
Baptism; Confirmation; Reception; Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows
In the Episcopal Church...
...a way of belonging...
...a way of commissioning...

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, October 14 we welcome to the Episcopal Church of the Cross the Rt. Rev. Philip Duncan. Bishop Duncan will preach and preside at the table that day.

It is also the practice in the Episcopal Church that a bishop, when visiting a congregation, baptizes, confirms, receives into the Anglican Communion, and hears the reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Below you'll find a few words on each of these practices of belonging and commissioning.

I invite you to consider how God is calling you to be blessed and prayed over by the bishop and people of the Church when Bishop Duncan visits on October 14.

Blessings to you, friends; and I bid you God's grace and peace.

Paul

Holy Baptism:

Holy Baptism is the way one becomes fully a member of the Body of Christ, through water and the Holy Spirit. Because of God's Prevenient Grace, the Episcopal Church follows the tradition of baptizing people of any age, including infants or children. Any and all who have not been baptized are invited to be baptized upon Bishop Duncan's visit.

If there is anyone in your household to be baptized, please be in touch with Paul at paul@ecclt.org for a conversation about baptismal preparation.

Confirmation:

The Christian tradition has always called every follower of Jesus to make a public declaration of faith when one is of age; when one is old enough and mature enough to make such a statement of one's own volition. Thus, while one becomes part of the Church at baptism, we invite persons when they are of age to make this public declaration of faith in the presence of a bishop and to receive the laying on of hands. This is called Confirmation. In Confirmation, one is confirming...taking upon one's self...the vows made on one's behalf at one's baptism.

If you are called to this adult affirmation of faith, we invite you to make your confirmation when Bishop Duncan visits on October 14. Please be in touch with Paul at paul@ecclt.org for more information on being confirmed.

Reception:

To be received by a bishop is to be welcomed into the entire Anglican Communion. To be received into the Anglican Communion means that just as Church of the Cross is your church home, so is every church in the Anglican Communion. One becomes a full member of the Anglican Communion by being received and prayed over by the bishop.

If you have been baptized and along the way made an adult affirmation of the faith in any tradition, we invite you to be received by Bishop Duncan on October 14. Please be in touch with Paul at paul@ecclt.org for more information on being received by Bishop Duncan.

Reaffirmation:

When one has already been baptized and confirmed or received, but experiences a calling to reaffirm publicly one's faith in the presence of a Bishop, one is invited to make a reaffirmation of baptismal vows and be prayed over individually by the bishop.

If you have been baptized and made your confirmation in the Episcopal Church or been received into the Episcopal Church, we invite you to make a personal reaffirmation of baptismal vows in the presence of Bishop Duncan. Please be in touch with Paul at paul@ecclt.org for conversation about making a reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

Preparation for Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows:

Paul is teaching a series called "Walking the Way in the Episcopal Church." In this teaching time we'll explore together the story and practices of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. All are invited to participate in this teaching, especially those adults who are ready to be confirmed, received, or to make a reaffirmation of baptismal vows upon Bishop Duncan's visit on October 14. An outline of the teaching is below.

Walking the Way in the Episcopal Church

Sunday, September 2 and 9

After worship: "Walking the Way I: The Story of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church"

Sunday, September 16

After worship: "Walking the Way II: The Practice of Prayer"

Sunday, September 23

After worship: "Walking the Way III: Baptism, Eucharist, and the Sacramental Life"

Wednesday, September 26

7:00 PM: Walking the Way: An Instructed Eucharist; location to be determined.

Sunday, September 30

After worship: "Walking the Way IV: The Rest of the Story"

Wednesday, October 3

7:00 PM: Walking the Way: The Creeds...Ancient Truth and Witness; location to be determined

Sunday, October 7

After worship: "Walking the Way V: The Local Community"

Sunday, October 14

During Worship: Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows upon the visit of Bishop Philip Duncan.