

What is **the mission** of the  
Church?

Episcopal (**adjective**) ... originates from the Latin word *episcopus*, meaning bishop (or overseer, guardian or elder). You have Episcopal bishops and Episcopal churches, Episcopal doctrine etc. Episcopal and Anglican can be used interchangeably.

Episcopalian (**noun**): refers to belonging to the Episcopal Church.  
Members of the Episcopal Church are Episcopalians

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# An Outline of the Faith

commonly called the Catechism

Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p.845-862

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## restore:

- i. the action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition
- ii. renewal, revival, or reestablishment
- iii. a bringing back to a former position or condition

“restore” in Hebrew:

שׁוּב

to return, to go back, to bring back.

movement back to the point of departure.

“restore” in Greek:

ἀποκαθίστημι

to bring back to health, to reconstitute.

to bring renewal of the broken covenant.

How have you previously understood the word ‘restoration?’

How does being called to “restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ” make you *feel*?

What kind of a mission is this? What is it calling on each of us to actually do?

I read this as a call to **be aware**, to **notice**, and to **attend to** the conditions of my own life and the world around me, to actively participate (where possible) in the removal of those things preventing relationship with others and with God.

This active participation, this is the stuff of my life. This is what becomes my ministry.

I believe that RESTORATION is the way to fullness of life.

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I do not believe restoration is possible until there is JUSTICE and LIBERATION for all.



Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

“The promise of unity is at the heart of Christ’s work; in him human beings are [children of God] and [siblings] to one another. The church, the community of those who confess Christ as their Lord, is a sign of unity within history. For this reason, the church must help the world to achieve unity, while knowing that unity among human beings is possible only if there is real justice for all.”

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“There is a binding obligation upon Christ’s disciples to stand by the stigmatized and the afflicted, following Christ’s own example of solidarity with outcasts. Wherever people are despised, rejected, and abused, there is Christ. Such solidarity with the victims of injustice and oppression must always override any temptations to judge or condemn. It is a critical test of fidelity to the way of Christ.”

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“Liberation does not occur at the level of ideas and feelings but at the level of actual people and of concrete institutions and structures.”

Kenneth Leech, Anglican priest, Christian socialist.

“Even if you learn how to walk differently, the soul becomes hungry in the absence of repair.”

Cole Arthur Riley, creator “Black Liturgies,” theologian, scholar.

“When Jesus said, “I am the way,” He meant that to have a true relationship with God, you must practice His Way.”

Tich Nhat Hanh, Thiền Buddhist monk, peace activist, teacher.

“I am often struck by the dangerous narcissism fostered by spiritual rhetoric that pays so much intention to individual self-improvement and so little to the practice of love within the context of community.”

bell hooks, scholar, feminist, social activist.

Release yourself from the tyranny of spiritual certainty. Doubt is not a threat to faith; it's faith that has finally taken off its mask.

I am free not to know.

I don't have to pretend.

God, stay close as I wonder.

God is not far from me.

*Amen.*

Cole Arthur Riley, taken from "Black Liturgies."

Be intentional about choosing your teachers.

Explore spiritual practices to support you.

Find community.

Keep learning who are you.