

Spring Semester 2009

OUTLINE OF DISCUSSION TOPICS IN “EXPLORATION OF FAITH” [Confirmation Preparation or general interest]

1. Historical roots and characteristics of Anglicanism and its implications for exploration of faith.
2. Why believe in God and not Atheist or Agnostic?
3. How to know about God- The Bible I
 - How did the Bible come to be – history
 - What is the Authority of the Bible?
 - What are the problems of Biblical fundamentalism?
4. How to know God – the Bible II
 - Old Testament and New Testament
5. How to know about God – Prayer I
 - Forms of prayer – contemplative prayer (icons), silence, meditation, corporate prayer
6. How to know about God – Prayer II
 - The Book of Common Prayer – history and structure.
 - How to use the prayer book for growth in spiritual life.
7. How to know about God – natural reason and experience
8. How to know about God – The sacraments, what are they and how do they work?
 - Holy Eucharist and Holy baptism – the great sacraments
 - Confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, reconciliation and unction – sacramental rites.
9. Who is Jesus I
 - How to know about Jesus
 - What did Jesus teach?
10. Who is Jesus II
 - The birth stories
 - Death and resurrection of Jesus
 - Why be Christians?
9. The creeds – statements of belief?
 - Nicene creed and Apostles Creed – how did they come about and what do they attempt to say.
11. The organization and polity of the Episcopal Church.