

The Practices of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

We show up.

- ≈ As Christ's presence in the Church and in the World.
- ≈ As committed worshippers, connectors, gatherers, senders, forgivers, reconcilers.
- ≈ As servants, disciples, learners, listeners.

Our worship happens any time of the week.

Our service happens always.

Like Jesus, we are at home in contemplative action.

When Abraham saw them, he ran from the tent to meet them, and he bowed down to the ground. (Genesis 18:2). Then Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38).

We tell the Story.

- ≈ Of creation, fall, deliverance.
- ≈ Of God's passion for justice, peace, holiness, humanity, life.
- ≈ Of Jesus and the disciples.

We know how those stories are woven into our stories, here and now.

We study because we are disciples, learners.

We find our life hidden with Christ and reveal it through storytelling—our evangelism.

The Word is very near you... (Deuteronomy 30:14). In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1). But there are also many things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that could be written. (John 21:25)

We splash water.

- ≈ Water purifies and cleanses.
- ≈ Water can also destroy and drown.
- ≈ Water is the source of life and creation.

Baptism separates us from humanity and creation, but also immerses us, in the same water God created and chose to enter in Jesus Christ. The font does not hide us from the pain of the world, but expels us into the world to listen, love, and serve, knowing we are being raised from sin and death.

Do you not know that all who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ has been raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4).

We share food.

- ≈ With each other, at the Altar and in the parish hall.
- ≈ With the hungry, going out among them, who are often us.

We behold what we are in the broken bread, the Risen Christ.

We work for a more just society.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines... (Isaiah 25:6). While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it and gave it to the disciples... (Matthew 26:26)

God surprises.

- ≈ Through Communities in Christ, growing beyond their walls.
- ≈ Through new ministries in new places, some without any walls at all.

People who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Isaiah 9:2). He answered... "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought