

Reasons to be Episcopalian

Robert H. Malm

“When Anglicanism is at its best, its liturgy, its poetry, its music and its life can create a world of wonder in which it is very easy to fall in love with God.”¹

“ ... with all its irritating nonsense, I know of no place in which I could have more freedom to be that Catholic Christian which we are called to be.”²

“ Christianity is always going to appeal to only certain classes of people – those who are ready to risk faith. Conversion requires a prior discontent, a restlessness of spirit, which leaves us open and eager to give ourselves to the mystery of God’s love. There are no guarantees, only a promise of things hoped for that lies beyond the suffering of our cross. The Gospel can only be heard if we are so disgusted with the slavery of Egypt that we are willing to wander in the wilderness in anticipation of the Promised Land.”³

¹ 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian (compiled by Louie Crew), Morehouse, 2003, p. 1.

² What is Anglicanism? Urban T. Holmes, III, Morehouse, 1982, p. ix.

³ Turning to Christ, Seabury Press, 1981, p. 219

I. Worship

1. God is Love
2. Jesus incarnate Lord
3. Life giving spirit
4. Sacraments and scripture
5. Beauty of holiness
6. Diversity
7. Participation
8. Tradition
9. Music
10. Individual, private prayer

II. Freedom

1. Theological
2. Ecclesiological
3. Spiritual
4. Political
5. External

III. Education

1. Questions and answers
2. Mystery, revelation, reason
3. Matters of the heart
4. Life long
5. Morality

IV. Pastoral Concern

1. Entire life span
2. Body, mind, spirit
3. Not just the clergy
4. Ministry within the community
5. Mission beyond

V. Fellowship

1. Parish, diocese life
2. Wider church, ecumenical
3. All sorts and conditions
4. Feasting and fasting
5. Communion of saints