

Why's the church important?

Outline of Exploring Theology Session 4

- Recap of Sessions 1-3

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- Recap of Sessions 1-3
- Opening prayer

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- Recap of Sessions 1-3
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- A theological definition

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- A theological declaration

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- Tradition as a source for theological thinking and living

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- Questions & reflections on the question ‘Why’s the church important?’

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- Who is God?

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- Recap of Sessions 1-3
 - Who is God?
 - Who are we?

Outline of Exploring Theology Session 4

- Recap of Sessions 1-3
 - Who is God?
 - Who are we?
- Why's the Bible important?

Why's the church important?

Opening prayer

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Collect for the Third Sunday after Easter

A theological declaration

The Nicene Creed (325)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

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Amen.

Lectio Divina

- Read (Lectio)
- Meditate (Meditatio)
- Pray (Oratio)
- Contemplate (Contemplatio)

- Read (**Lectio**)
- Meditate (**Meditatio**)
- Pray (**Oratio**)
- Contemplate (**Contemplatio**)

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1 Corinthians 15:1-4a - Read

¹Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures ⁴and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4a - Meditate

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4a - Pray

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For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received:

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4a - Contemplate

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters,

the good news that I proclaimed to you,

which you in turn received,

in which also you stand,

through which also you are being saved,

if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—

unless you have come to believe in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4a - Contemplate

For I handed on to you

as of first importance

what I in turn had received:

that Christ died for our sins

in accordance with the scriptures

and that he was buried

and that he was raised on the third day

in accordance with the scriptures

What are our key sources
for theological reflection?

- Scripture

- Scripture
- Tradition

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience
- Worship

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience
- Worship

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience
- Worship

What comes to mind
when you hear the word
‘tradition’?

What do we mean by tradition?

What are some of the positives...?

And what are some of the negatives?

Tradition vs *Traditionalism*

Traditionalism

Tradition

Latin **traditio**

Latin **traditio**, from *tradere*

Latin **traditio**, from *tradere* ‘deliver, betray’

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from *trans-* ‘across’ + *dare* ‘give’.

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To give across. To hand over.

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To give across. To hand over.

Tradition means both
what is given across
and
the act of handing it over

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What is being *traditioned* (handed over)?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4a - Read

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The message

which takes the form
of a story

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Tradition means both
what is given across

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*...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the
scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on
the third day in accordance with the scriptures (1 Cor 15.4*

Tradition means both
what is given across
and
the act of handing it over

The Telephone Game



<https://theosophical.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/telephone-game.jpg>

What are some of the ways
to preserve *the message*?

Three ways:

Scripture



Aaron Burden

Scripture Creeds

The Nicene Creed (325 AD)

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Amen.

Scripture Creeds

Scripture
Creeds
Bishops



Bishop Philip Mounstephen



Bishop Philip Mounstephen



Bishop Rhiannon King

Scripture Creeds Bishops



Mohammed Omar Rashid



Why's the church important?

When you hear the word
‘church’
what comes to mind?

What's been your experience
of church?

How do you feel about
church?

What is the church?

- The institution

- The institution
- The place

- The institution
- The place
- The people

If your church has a website,
what do you think a visitor to the website
would think 'church' was?

Home Page

Visiting

Services/Events

Fabric/History

Parish

Music

Community

Contacts

Safeguarding



The Parish of Christchurch

Christchurch Priory – St George at Jumpers – St John at Purewell

@thepriorychurch

@ChristchurchPriory

Children and Families


Priory Choirs



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Tuesday

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Weekly Bulletin



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mission, and
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Christ Church Winchester is part of
[The Church of England](#).



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Search the website

 Search

- The institution
- The place
- The people

Why's the church *important*?



Ignatius of Antioch (c.35-c.110)



“Wherever Jesus Christ is,
there is the catholic Church”



catholic = universal



“Wherever Jesus Christ is,
there is the catholic Church”



Why's the church *important*?



The church is important
because *that's where Jesus Christ is.*



“Wherever Jesus Christ is,
there is the catholic Church”

How is Jesus Christ present?

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Word

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Word
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Spirit

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Word
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Spirit

Alistair McGrath, Christian Theology - An Introduction, pp364-367

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally

Hang on! What's a 'sacrament'?

Hang on! What's a 'sacrament'?
Good question!

‘A sacrament is an outward and visible sign
of an inward and invisible grace.’

Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

One way to think of this is:

One way to think of this is:

Jesus Christ is *the* sacrament of God.

One way to think of this is:

Jesus Christ is *the* sacrament of God.

‘The church is ... the sacrament of Christ;
she represents him ... she really makes him present.’

Henri de Lubac (1986–1991)

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Word
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Spirit

Alistair McGrath, Christian Theology - An Introduction, pp364-367

Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word.

When the Word of God is proclaimed
both in the reading of the Scriptures
and the preaching of the Word



Karl Barth (1886-1968)



“Wherever Jesus Christ is,
there is the catholic Church”

The Holy Spirit

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Word
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Spirit

Alistair McGrath, Christian Theology - An Introduction, pp364-367

In the absence of the Holy Spirit
there is no church.



John Zizioulas (1931- 2023)

The church is instituted by Christ ...

... and constituted by the Holy Spirit.

Why's the church *important*?



“Wherever Jesus Christ is,
there is the catholic Church”

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally

Jesus Christ is present ... through the Word

Jesus Christ is present ... through the Spirit

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally

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Jesus Christ is present ... through the Spirit

Jesus Christ is present ... sacramentally
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Word
Jesus Christ is present ... through the Spirit

How is Jesus Christ present in your church?

How do we worship and pray?

Summary

- A theological declaration - the Nicene Creed

Summary

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- Read some Scripture - 1 Corinthians 15

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who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
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that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Collect for the Third Sunday after Easter