

Briefly on Church History (pre-Reformation)

Episcopalian 101

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

1. BC—Jewish History

2. Jesus' Ministry

3. Apostolic Church (Acts of the Apostles)

- Spread of the Gospel to Gentiles, throughout Mediterranean
- Emperor Nero had Christians killed in Rome in 64 AD
- 66–70 AD, Jewish rebellion in Judea, Temple destroyed
- Until about 110–120 AD

4. Patristic Church (time of Church Fathers)

- Tertullian, Cyprian, Irenaeus, and other pillars of the early church
- still, a time of martyrs, until...
- Battle of Mulvian Bridge, 312 AD—Constantine new Roman emperor; an imperial church was born
- Bible agreed upon in 367-382 AD (Jerome's Bible by his death in 420)
- Four Oecumenical Councils
 - **Nicaea in 325** (dealt with heresy of Arian controversy; Jesus not eternal, but created)
 - The Nicene Creed is made to define orthodox belief in Jesus.
 - **Constantinople in 381** (dealt with heresy of Apollinarianism; Jesus not fully human in body, soul and spirit because human spirit replaced by divine.)
 - The Nicene Creed is revised to define Orthodox belief.
 - **Ephesus in 431** (dealt with heresy of Nestorianism: Jesus not human/divine in one, but two separate beings; an adopted man made divine, of sorts)
 - **Chalcedon in 451** (Monophysitism: really just one, divine nature, the divine; his humanity like a drop of water in the sea of divinity)

The Chalcedonian definition of Christ: "Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, or Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting of a reasonable soul and body; **of one substance (homoousios)** with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin, as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer (theotokos); one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest time spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the Fathers has handed down to us."

Britian

- Bishoprics in London by 300
- 1st Christian missionaries retreat West after Rome pulls out in 400
- Celtic Christianity takes root; Rome returns in the person of Augustine of Canterbury in 597

5. **Western and Eastern Church grow apart** and finally split in **1054** over papal claims to infallibility and creedal differences (Holy Spirit proceeds from Father *and the Son*. West said *and the Son*; East said only from the Father).
6. **Investiture Controversy, 1122** (Concordat of Worms)
 - Who would invest bishops and abbots with power? King or Pope?
7. **Crusades** in 1095 and 1145 (Taking back the Holy Land from the Turks)
8. **Jerusalem Falls to the Turks, 1187**
9. **Crusade** in 1204 and 1217...last Crusade in 1270??
10. **Decree of Transubstantiation, 1213** at the Fourth Lateran Council
11. **Doctrine of Papal Supremacy, 1302**
12. **The Spanish Inquisition, 1497, under Ferdinand and Isabella**
13. **European Reformation**
 - a. politics, art, episcopate, celibacy, superstition, transubstantiation, Latin Bible and prayers vs. native tongue, indulgences (payments for forgiveness of sin)
 - b. Luther in Germany, 95 Theses on door at Wittenburg, October 31, 1517. He died in 1546
 - c. Zwingli in Zurich (1484-1581)
 - d. Calvin in Geneva (1509–1564)
 - e. England (see <http://www.eldrbarry.net/heidel/ereftl.pdf>)