

One God, One Faith, One Baptism:

Baptismal Identity in the Body of Christ

Contours of the Christian Life

The Rev. Adam Conley

March 11, 2026

**Intro:
Review Basics**

**Part One:
How We Got
The 1979 Book of Common Prayer**

**Part Two:
Our Theology of Baptism: Baptismal
Identity**

Our Time Together

What is a Sacrament?

The sacraments are outward and visible signs of an inward and visible grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.

BCP p. 857



What is Holy Baptism?

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.

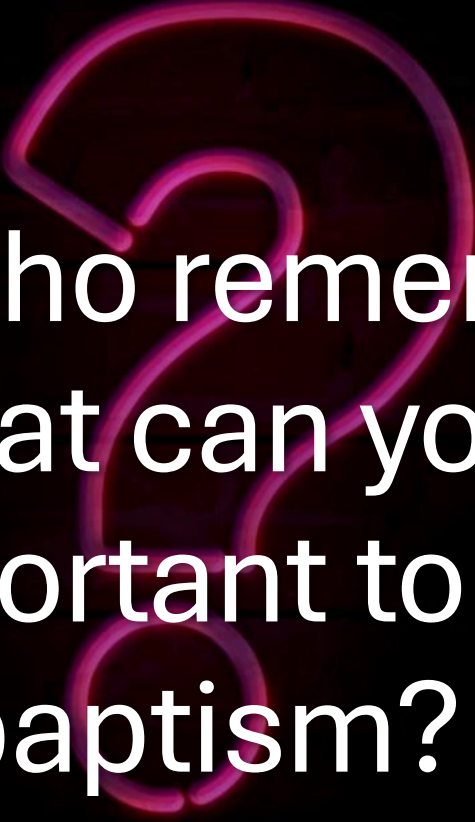
BCP p. 298





“God comes to us,
offers Godself to us,
acts in and for us,
not as a bare sign or
mere embodied
metaphor but by
means of a true
symbol, something
that participates in
and provides access
to a reality beyond
itself.”

*The Rev. Kelli Joyce,
Wisdom, Knowledge,
and Faith, 203*



Question: Who remembers their baptism? What can you share? Or, what is important to you about baptism?

History of Baptism





**Qumran – Cave of the
Dead Sea Scrolls**



Jewish Baptism: Torah purification laws;
mikveh bath

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New Testament
Baptism:
John the
Baptist
Jesus
Paul



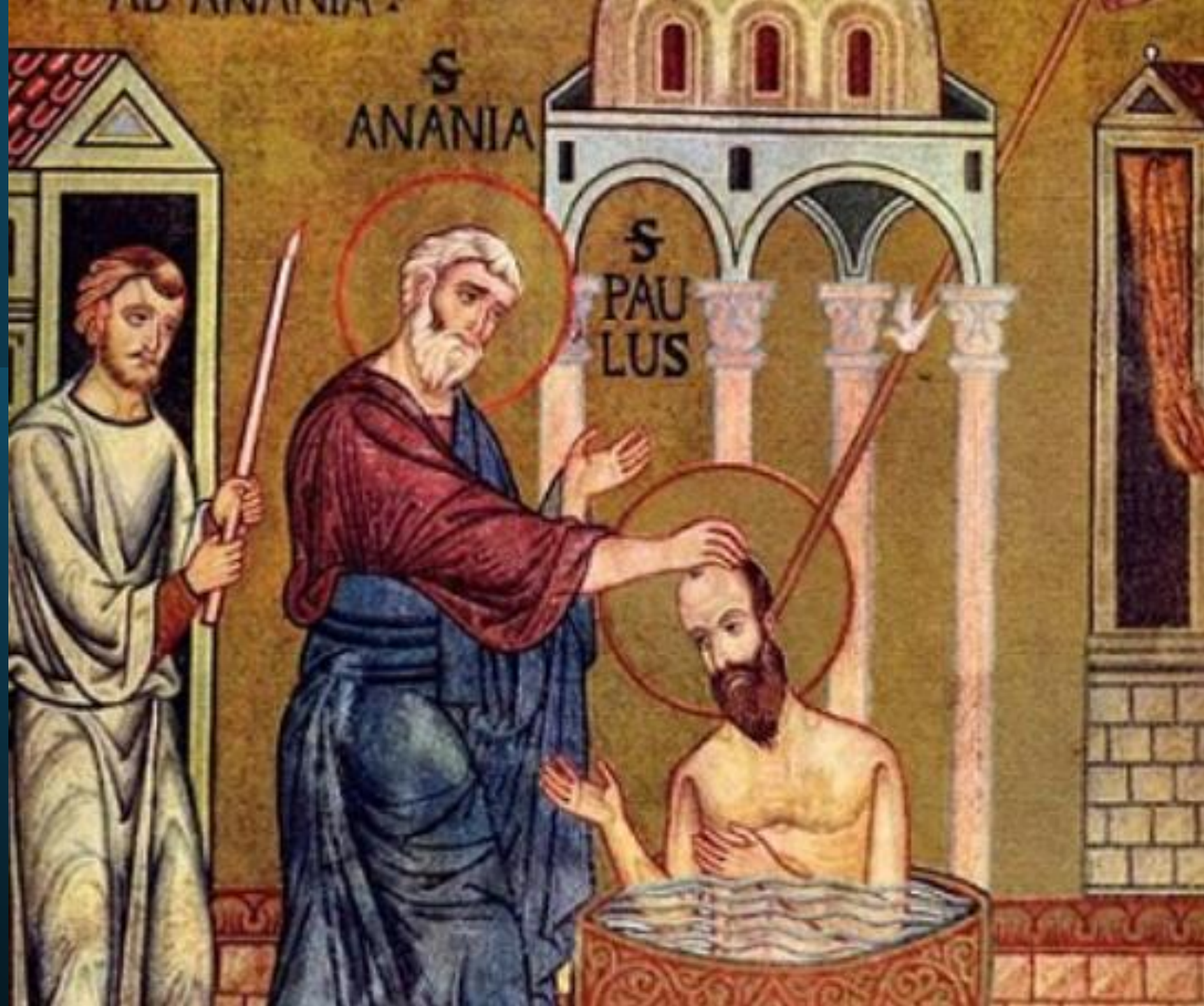
Philip & The Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:26-40



Patristic Age

approx. 100 CE
to 750 CE



Byzantine Party Hottub

6th Century
Tunisia





Medieval Era

800-1450 CE



Salisbury Cathedral



New Font By William Pye
2006

The BOOK of
Common Prayer,
And Administration of the
SACRAMENTS,
AND OTHER
RITES and CEREMONIES
OF THE
CHURCH,
According to the Use of
The CHURCH of ENGLAND:
TOGETHER WITH THE
PSALTER
OR
PSALMS of DAVID,
Which are to be sung or said in Churches.

CAMBRIDGE,

Printed by JOHN BASKERVILLE, Printer to the University.



Thomas Cranmer &
the English
Reformation

1549, 1552, 1559,
1662 BCP

“Dost thou renounce the
devil and all his evil
works, and pomps...[sic]”

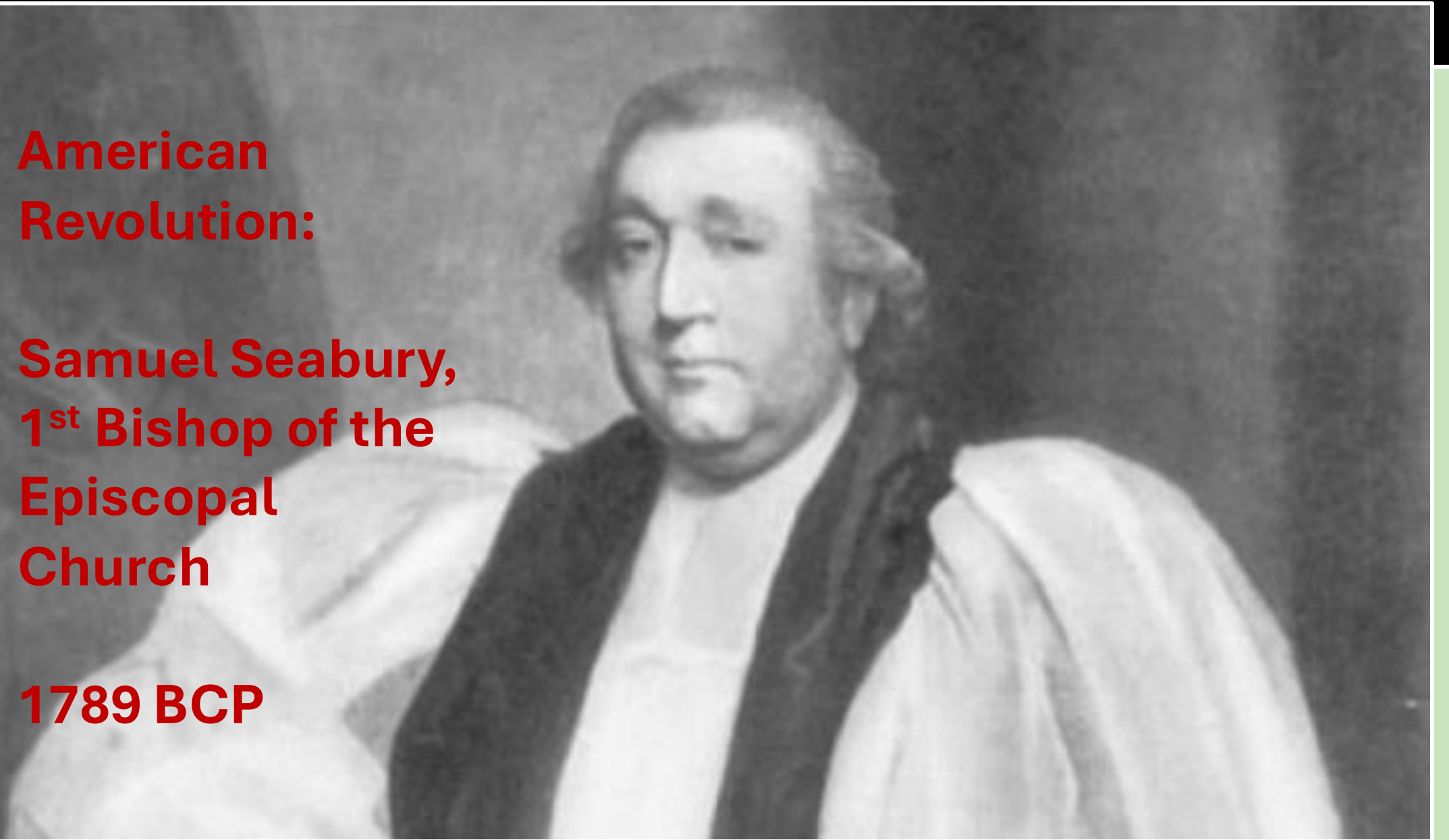
BCP 1662



**American
Revolution:**

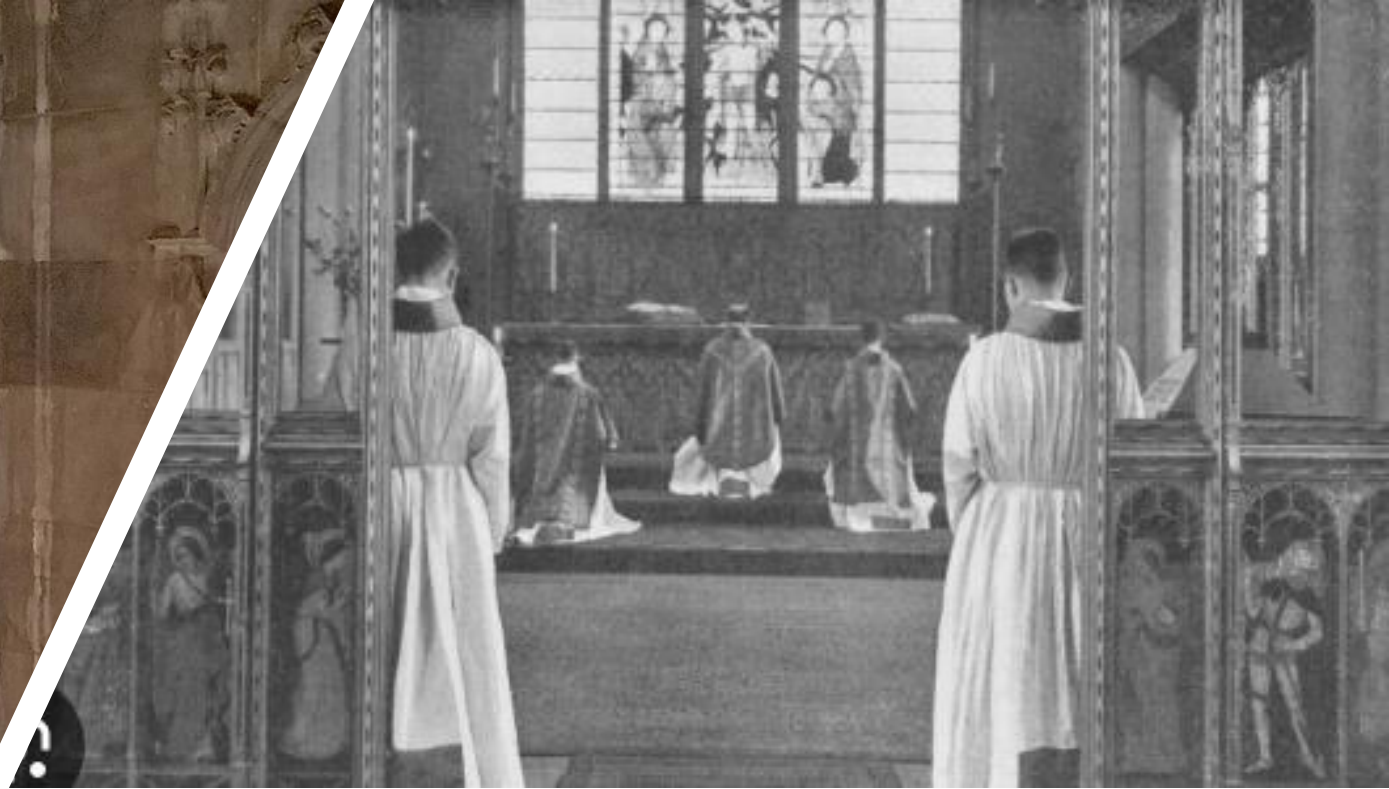
**Samuel Seabury,
1st Bishop of the
Episcopal
Church**

1789 BCP



**19th
Century
&
The Oxford
Movement**





Howe

PRAYER BOOK
STUDIES

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123*

IV
THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

PRAYER BOOK
STUDIES

XVII

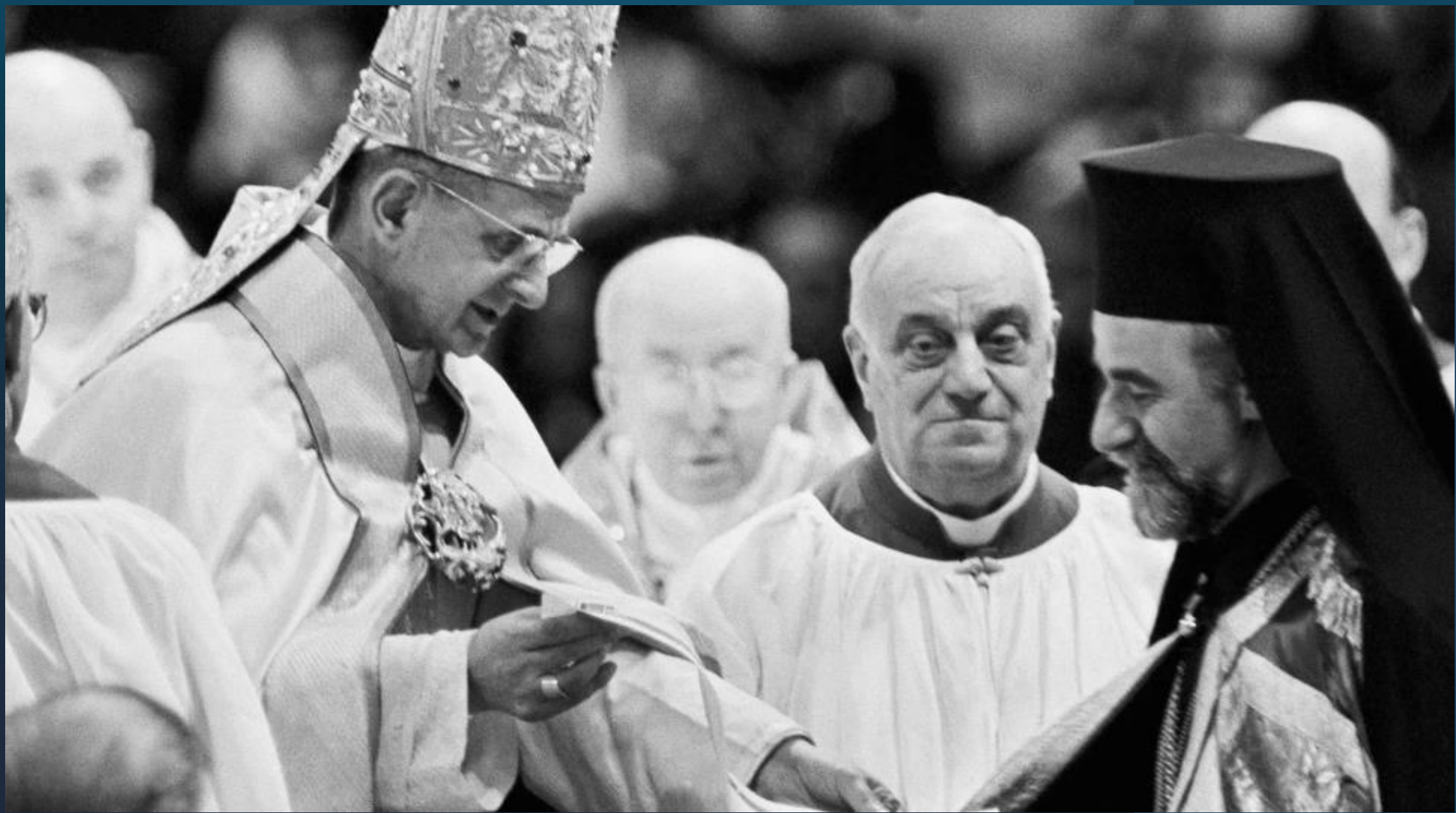
THE LITURGY OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER

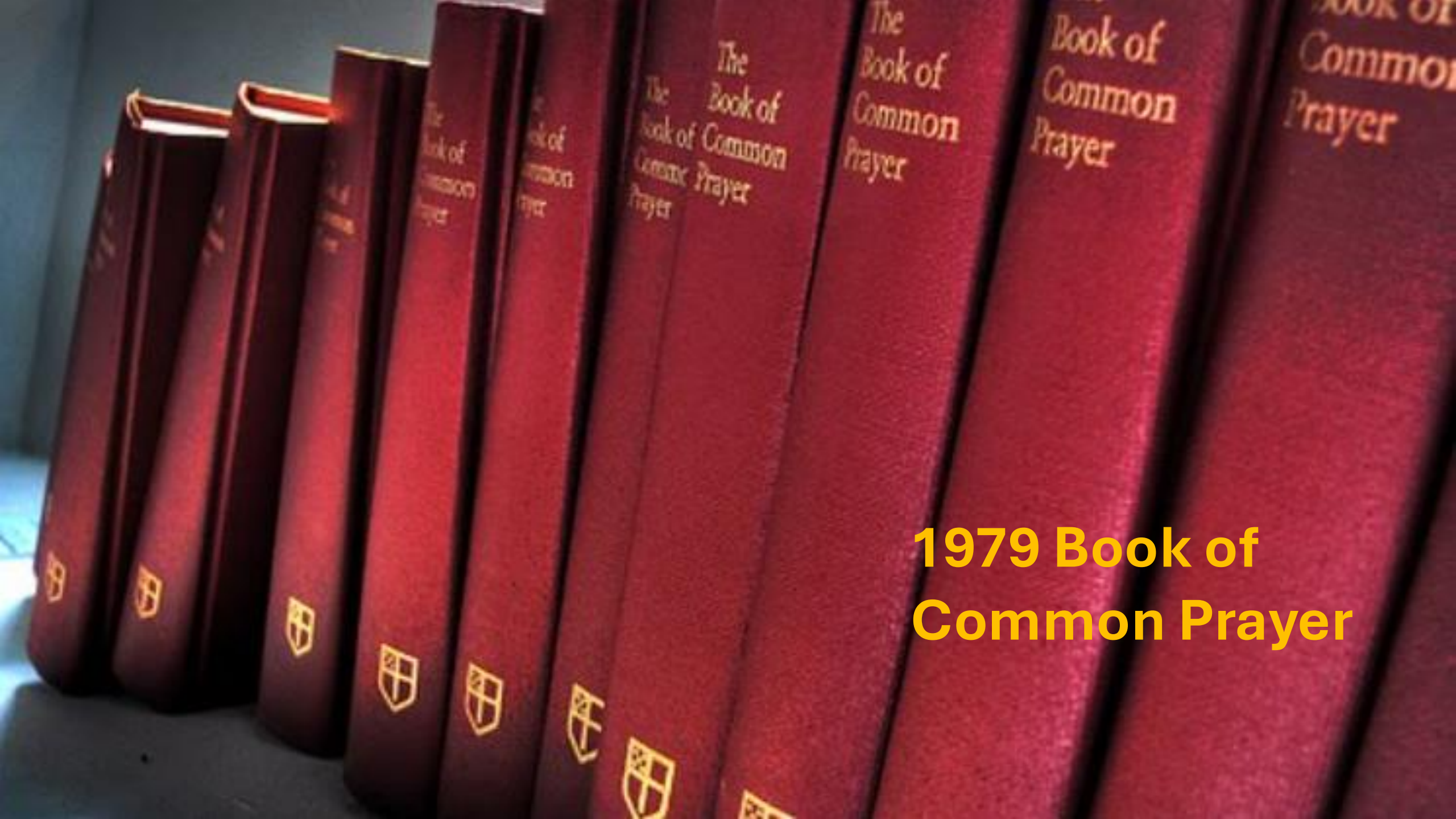
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TO PRAYER BOOK SERVICES

Vatican II







1979 Book of Common Prayer

—

One God, One
Faith, One
Baptism:
Baptismal
Identity in the
Body of Christ





“I am, above
all, a
baptized
member of
Christ’s
risen body,
the Church.”

*--The Most Rev. Frank
Griswold, STR p.25*





“The genius of the sacraments is that they engage our whole physical humanity: they are sensual. The fullness of their meaning is not contained within neat catechism definitions. Our fundamental engagement with the sacraments is not cerebral; it is visceral.”

Louis Weil (CDSP Emeritus Professor of Liturgics)
ATR – 266

1979 Baptismal Rite:

Presentation &
Examination of the
Candidates

**“I WILL,
WITH GOD’S
HELP.”**

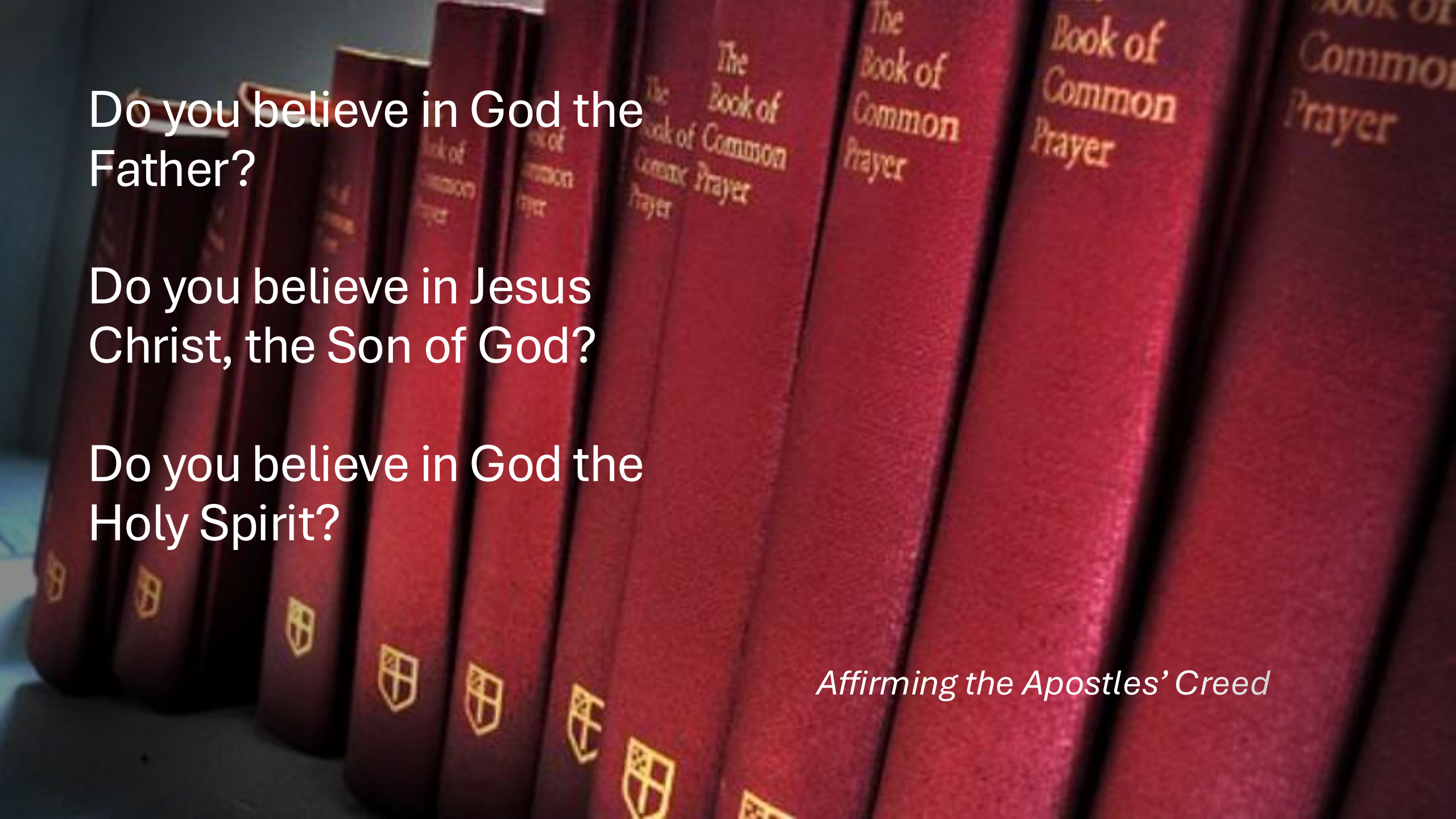
The Baptismal Covenant

The Baptismal Covenant

“Baptism is the sacrament of the laity: the initiation into the historic community of the people of God and the differentiation of those baptized from worldly identification and status.”

William Stringfellow



A row of red books with gold lettering and crests, titled "The Book of Common Prayer". The books are arranged in a slightly overlapping manner, creating a sense of depth. The gold lettering is embossed on the red covers, and the crests are also gold. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

Do you believe in God the
Father?

Do you believe in Jesus
Christ, the Son of God?

Do you believe in God the
Holy Spirit?

Affirming the Apostles' Creed

Will you
continue in
the apostles'
teaching and
fellowship, in
the breaking of
bread, and in
the prayers?



Will you
proclaim by
word and
example the
Good News of
God in Christ?



Will you
persevere in
resisting evil,
and, whenever
you fall into sin,
repent and turn
to the Lord?



Will you seek
and serve
Christ in all
persons,
loving your
neighbor as
yourself?



Will you strive
for justice and
peace among
all people, and
respect the
dignity of
every human
being?



Will you cherish
the wondrous
works of God,
and protect the
beauty and
integrity of all
creation?





Question: What do you notice about the way the covenant is presented?

Will you
continue in
the apostles'
teaching and
fellowship, in
the breaking of
bread, and in
the prayers?





William Stringfellow

"Baptism is the sacrament of the extraordinary unity among humanity wrought by God in overcoming the power of and reign of death; in overcoming all that alienates, segregates, divides, and destroys human beings in their relationship with each other, within their own persons, and in their relationship with the rest of creation."

A white dove is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The dove's wings are spread wide, and its tail feathers are visible. The bird is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame. The text "Scriptural Attributes of Baptismal Identity" is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image in a white, sans-serif font. Below the text, there is a solid orange horizontal bar that spans the width of the image.

Scriptural Attributes of Baptismal Identity

Participation in Christ's Death & Resurrection

Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:3-5

Participation in Christ's Death & Resurrection

When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:12

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Galatians 3:27

Forgiveness, Pardoning, Cleansing, Liberation

Let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:22

And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ[a] and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

New Birth, Conversion

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

2 Corinthians 5:17

For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything!

Galatians 6:15

Gift of the Holy Spirit

“You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever.”

BCP 308

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:10-11

Acts 2

Incorporation into Christ's Body, the Church

“The prayer of the baptized
community surges up from
the depths of God's own life.”

Rowan Williams

As many of you as were
baptized into Christ have
clothed yourselves with
Christ. There is no longer Jew
or Greek; there is no longer
slave or free; there is no longer
male and female, for all of you
are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:27-28

Incorporation into Christ's Body, the Church

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13

[T]here is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

Sign of the Kingdom (Realm of God)

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:27-28

I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me...

Matthew 3:11a

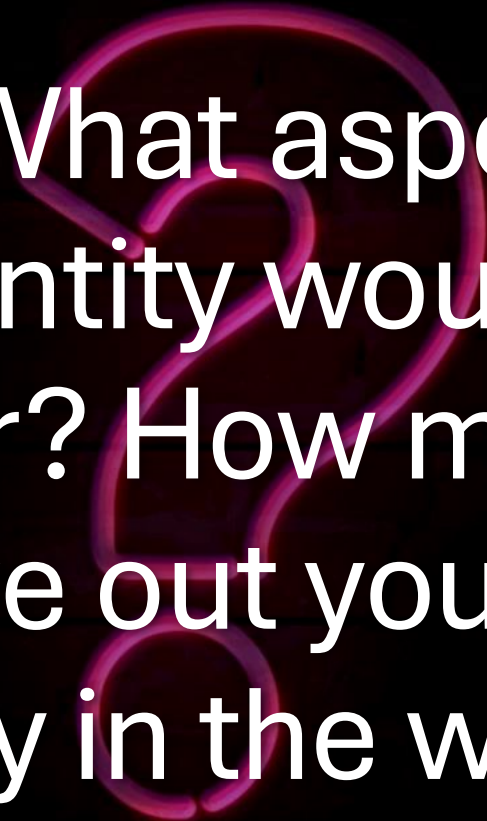
Sign of the Kingdom (Realm of God)

"Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water
and the Spirit, he cannot enter
the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

"But when they believed Philip
as he preached good news
about the kingdom of God and
the name of Jesus Christ, they
were baptized, both men and
women."

Acts 8:12



Question: What aspect of your baptismal identity would you like to explore further? How might this help you better live out your baptismal identity in the world?

More Stringfellow quotes:

“Even though baptism is done in the presence of a gathered congregation, it has come to be regarded as a primarily personal, family, or religious observance rather than as the notorious, public and political action baptism is reported to be in the New Testament.” – 159

“Baptism signifie[s] the new citizenship in Christ that supersedes the old citizenship under Caesar.” -- 159





“Such a confession [as baptism] by a congregation is a most audacious political statement expounding the sovereignty of the Word of God, in its imminence as much as its ultimacy, and an open affront to all principalities or persons [idols] who feign rule in this world.” -- 161

“[Baptism] frees the baptized to live in the world and that enables [them] to serve the evident needs of the world’s common existence. In baptism, authority means the authority of a servant.” -- 162