

# Theology

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*The Episcopal Church is faith unafraid of reason and of reason unashamed to adore.* These words written by Bishop Daniel Tuttle in the late 19th century are as true today as they were at that time. The Episcopal Church once embraced the fullness of the human mind and at the same time the mystery of the human heart. We live in a world which is ever changing and evolving and we understand ourselves as an integral piece of God's economy by working through prayer and service to proclaim God's love to all people in every need and place.

## During Worship

The Liturgy is celebrated by all of us, not just the Priest. The Liturgy begins with a musical voluntary. Talking during this time is not encouraged as it is a time for personal prayer. We stand for hymns, for many prayers, and as the offering is brought forward. We kneel for confession and for private prayer. We stand for the reading of the Gospel and sit during the sermon. The sign is made by touching the forehead, chest, left shoulder and the right shoulder. It can be made at any point, usually at the beginning and end of worship, at the absolution of our sins and when we are blessed.

## Receiving Communion

All persons are invited to the Table at Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church. When receiving the Elements, the bread will be placed in your hand. In receiving the chalice, it is helpful to guide it by holding the base. If you do not wish to receive either the bread or wine you may simply cross your hands across your chest and the priest will bless you in God's name.

## Comfortable Participation

If you have any other questions about life or worship at Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church, the clergy are always glad to try to answer them. Don't worry about getting everything "right" or understanding everything immediately. Our aim is simply for you to feel at home and to be a part of God's family.

Fr. Shannon