

# The Toilet Paper

Odd fact and obscure thought to read...as you have time

## Who is Anglican?

Today, there are 78 million Anglicans in 164 nations. In the United States, the Anglican Church goes by the name Episcopal as it was not popular following the Revolutionary War to identify yourself with England.

Anglican churches are most clearly defined by a style of worship descending from the Book of Common Prayer first created in 1549 from both Medieval prayers and Reformation worship services.

The Anglican Communion does historically connect to the Church of England, but today it is much more than its English roots. The typical Anglican today is a Nigerian woman in her 30s with four children who is also raising several foster children. At least one person in her home has AIDS.

The figurehead of the Anglican Communion is the Archbishop of Canterbury, currently Rowan Williams. But the Archbishop has no real control over the churches in the communion.

For those who attend King of Peace, the shortest answer to who is Anglican is "me." 

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"Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?"

-Martin Luther

## You Know the Sermon

### Will Be Bad When...

Sermon starts that make you wish you had slept late...

A funny thing happened on the way to church this morning...

This morning's sermon has 18 points...

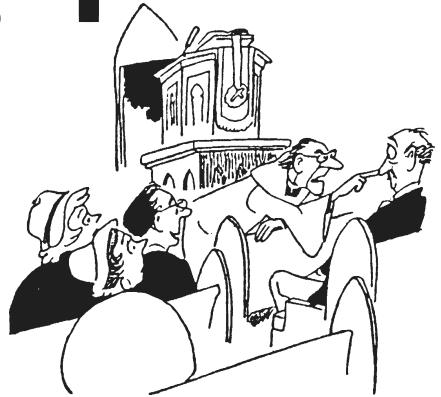
Did you hear the one about the three ministers on an airplane...

Webster defines (insert any word here) as...

Yesterday's Georgia game has many parallels to this morning's text...

I was digging through my old seminary class notes this week and...

There are some topics that 20 minutes just can't do justice... 



## When Bad Sermons Happen

The safe option is to say nothing about the sermon that was a stinker when you shake hands with the minister as you leave church, but here are a few other possibilities:

Splendid sermon! I particularly liked the ending.

You have such a gift for speaking off the cuff.

Do you practice your sermon delivery a great deal?

Your lengthy treatment of Greek verbs was especially moving.

It's a shame more people don't hear your sermons.

You have such an interesting preaching style.

Where in the world did you learn to preach that way?

I hope you are saving your sermons for your next parish. 

## The Goal of Preaching

A sermon is not an opportunity for a preacher to break open God's word and tell us its meaning. The sermon is a chance to dwell on the readings in a way that allows God's word to break open our hearts and lives and give us meaning. 

How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?

Change??? You're not changing that light bulb. My grandmother gave that bulb to this church and... 