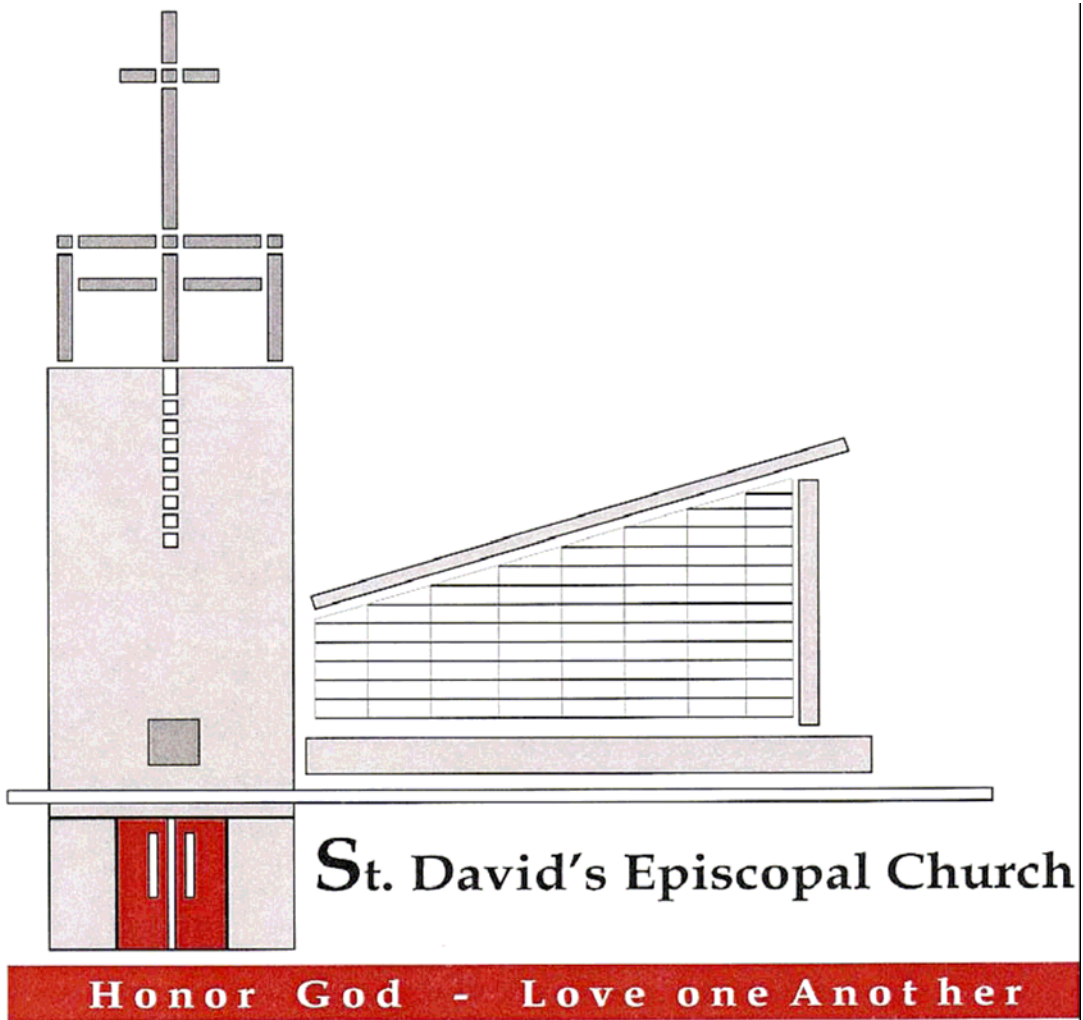


Get Acquainted with St. David's

A Visitor's Guide to the Episcopal Service



Welcome to St. David's Episcopal Church

Thank you for coming today. We're delighted you are here, and we want you to come back.



Everyone here was a newcomer once, and we *all* had questions – maybe the same ones you have. Do not hesitate to ask questions!

We hope you will be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit. You can't do that if you're wondering which book to pick up next or trying "to do everything right," which usually means doing the same things everyone else is doing.

Always remember...

- When you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!
- If you need help, ask the person next to you. We like people here at St. David's.
- Regardless of what anybody else is doing, don't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.

You can do whatever makes you feel comfortable.

You shouldn't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Here are answers to some basic questions...



1. Am I allowed to receive communion here? The answer is not only YES, but also WE HOPE YOU WILL. Anyone who is a baptized Christian is welcome to receive communion.

What about Communion? How do I participate? Communion is received at the circular communion rail around the Holy Table and occasionally at other stations in the nave (although there is a slight difference, the word "nave" is what most other non-Episcopalians call the "sanctuary"). Ushers dismiss pews (when they get to your pew, it's your turn to go to the communion rail). You may kneel or stand to receive communion. Just put your right hand, palm up, in your left hand and a priest or deacon will put a wafer or a piece of bread in your hand, saying either, "The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life," or "The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven." Simply raise your hands to your mouth and eat the bread or wafer. Next the wine will be brought to you. We use real wine, not grape juice, and a common cup. When the chalice bearer comes to you, help guide the cup to your lips and take a sip. If you do not wish to consume wine, just cross your arms over your chest as the chalice bearer approaches you. If you want wine, but don't want to drink from the cup, leave the bread in your palm—the chalice bearer will dip the bread in the wine and put it in your mouth. As the chalice bearer gives you wine, he or she will say, "The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life," or "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." If you have a child who you do not wish to receive communion, just have your child cross his or her arms across his or her chest. The priest will say a blessing. (This is true for adults too.) Please remember that all who love God, most especially children, are welcome at the Lord's table.



2. What are the different books beneath the chair in front of me? There should be two different books, although sometimes they get rearranged. One is the *Book of Common Prayer*. It should have a cross on



the cover. The entire service, as well as many other ceremonies and material, is contained in it. It is referred to as "BCP" in the bulletin you received when you came in.

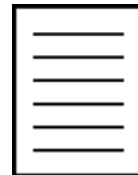
The other book is the *Hymnal 1982*. The songs we sing are also indicated in the bulletin. The first 287 hymns in the front part of the book are called "Service Music" and have an "S" before the hymn number. If the hymn has an "H" and not an "S" before the number, it will be found toward the back of the book. The hymnal is generally used only at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday Service. There is no music at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Service or the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Service. The 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service is a contemporary music service, where the words to the songs are projected on the walls.



3. What is all the printed material I was handed?

The bulletin shows the order of the service. If you want to follow the service word for word, this sheet directs you to the page numbers in the *Book of Common Prayer*. It also shows hymn numbers. It lists the members of the ministry teams (people who serve in specific ways in today's service) and a "Who's Who" at St. David's (our worship leaders).

The other sheet, the ATT ("Around the Table") contains various announcements, the calendar for the coming week and other items of interest. One of the most important announcements is that we serve breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. Please join us for breakfast either before or after the service you attend. Donations are welcome but not required.



4. **Why are some people bowing and some kneeling before entering the pews, and others don't do anything at all?** What you are noticing is called "reverencing" and people have different ways of doing it. Some bow in the direction of the Holy Table, some "genuflect" (touch their knee to the floor), others reverence silently or without gesture. As we said earlier, do whatever helps you to worship; don't do whatever hinders that.

5. **Why do some people touch themselves on the forehead, the chest and shoulders?** Again, this is a personal worship style. It is called making the sign of the cross. Some people do it out of habit, others because it reminds them of the price Jesus paid to enable us to respond to God's love; still others because it's their way of "taking up their own cross" and following him. You will see them doing this at times during the service, too. But *you don't have to* cross yourself just because others do.



6. **This looks very Roman Catholic to me. Is this a Roman Catholic Church?** That is difficult to answer in a booklet like this.



Like the Roman Catholic Church, worship in the Episcopal Church is liturgical and sacramental in the ancient catholic tradition. Although our worship is similar, organization and authority in the Anglican Church is different. The important thing, however, is our worship of God.

7. **Is anyone going to make me stand up and give my name or anything like that?** No. Not because we don't care, in fact, you will find we care very much. We just don't want to embarrass you or make you uncomfortable. But we hope you will fill out one of the "Guest" cards at the end of each row of seats—just put it in the offertory plate—and introduce yourself to one of the clergy after the service.

8. **What is going to happen next?** As you wait for the service to start, the first thing you'll probably hear will be the Prelude, usually an organ solo. You may see Altar Guild volunteers placing linens and arranging things around the Holy Table and the lecterns. Sometimes acolytes (usually wearing white robes) will light candles. One thing you can do before the actual service begins is to familiarize yourself with the bulletin and the hymnal. Whatever we will be singing first is listed in the bulletin as the Processional Hymn. If you love the hymn, sing out, whether you're in tune or not. If you don't know the hymn or don't want to sing, you can just read the words to yourself.



9. Who are the people in the procession? Depending on the service you're attending, the procession may be



led by a vergers. The vergers carries a staff with a small cross at the top and sets the pace for the procession. Next, you will see acolytes wearing white and carrying a cross (watch people bow as it passes them) and candles; sometimes acolytes also carry banners. If the choir(s) are part of the procession, they come next. Then

come the clergy. Their vestments are the most festive and sometimes very elaborate—the colors of their stoles reflect the colors of the season in the church calendar. If the bishop is present, he'll be last in the procession. You'll know it's the bishop because he wears a pointed hat (called a mitre) and carries a staff (called a crosier).

And finally...

We are really glad you have chosen to join us for worship today, and we hope you will come back often. Remember, if you have questions, ask someone near you. Most important, do what makes you feel comfortable.

If you have questions after you get home, please call the church office at 785-272-5144. You can visit our website: www.stdavidschurch.com where a link is available to contact us by e-mail. Our clergy will be happy to visit with you, and provide more information at your request. In addition, we are on Facebook.

If you would like to take this booklet with you for future reference, please feel free to do so. Don't forget to check the upcoming events for the week in the "Around the Table" handout.

God is glad you're here, and so are we. *We would love to have you join us again soon at St. David's.*

God bless you.

St. David's.....in the beginning.....and now

One Sunday in March, 1952 a group of 20 people met in an upstairs classroom of the old Seabrook School for the first service of a new church which was to be on the cutting edge of the Eucharist-centered worship movement that was taking hold in the Episcopal Church. At the end of the service, Fr. Carleton Clark announced that the Bishop had purchased a farmhouse and two acres at 17th and Gage as a site for the new church. Several weeks later the first public service was held at neighboring Faith Lutheran Church, until their own Parish Hall was completed in 1952. That Parish Hall served as worship area until a new nave with a dramatic Christus Rex (Christ the King) as its central feature was built in 1961. Other additions completed the original complex in 1980. The Eucharist formed the beginning of our parish and continues as the chief symbol of our worship today.

The exterior of the church remained the same for years. But inside its doors, adults learned, children were taught, babies and adults were baptized, couples were married, healings occurred, the lives of the dead were celebrated. A Courtyard was added so that ashes of the faithful could be inurned on the grounds of the Church they loved so well. Then, in the early morning of November 10, 2006, the priest and people gathered across the street, and watched the building of St. David's destroyed by an arson fire.

Rebuilding on the same site started while the people who are the church met in various locations: Faith Lutheran, Topeka Masonic Center, Grace Cathedral, Gage Park, even an enormous tent. Then, the parish was invited by the people of Temple Beth Sholom to meet for Sunday worship in their building. This generosity forged a strong relationship between our two congregations and is physically represented by a gift of our Reading Table, once located in their original Temple worship space.

The new Holy Table was rebuilt using materials from the old stone Table and in the center of the Table, encased in heavy glass, is a stone from the original Church of the Blessed David of Wales. A new contemporary service was added. The dedication and consecration was held three years from the day of the fateful fire, November 10, 2009.

Through it all, babies were born, children were baptized, couples were married, people died. But the spirit of St. David's Church is strong. Its people are steadfast. Our building may be new but we remember our beginnings as we gather around the Lord's Table to celebrate the Eucharist, to give thanks for new life in Christ, and for being home again.

Our Services:



Saturday Service

**5:00 p.m. Spoken Holy Eucharist Rite II
(contemporary language service without music)**

Sunday Services

**8:00 a.m. Spoken Holy Eucharist Rite I (traditional language
liturgy without music)**

**9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite III (contemporary service with
modern liturgies and music)**

9:50 a.m. Christian Education

**10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (traditional liturgy with
contemporary language and choir)**

Wednesday Service

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing

Parish Staff

The Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe, D.D., IXth Bishop of Kansas

The Reverend Donald F. Davidson, D.Min., Rector

The Reverend Canon Frank N. Cohoon, Rector Emeritus

The Reverend Herman Page, Pastoral Associate

The Reverend Barbara Bloxson, Assistant to the Rector

Harry W. Craig, Deacon

Annie Hedquist, Deacon in Residence

Mrs. Christy McMullen, Director of Financial Administration

Mrs. Donna Osborne, Director of Music

Mrs. Kirsten Goodman, Youth Coordinator

Ms. Lisa Beebe, Parish Secretary

**St. David's Episcopal Church
785-272-5144**

3916 SW 17th Ave.

Topeka, KS 66604

www.stdavidschurch.com

**St. David's is a proud member parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas,
The Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion.**