

# CHURCH HISTORY

From Pentecost to Present

## Biblical History

After Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit descended to help us \_\_\_\_\_ and establish the Church. Right away, people in the Church started asking, "What is needed to reconnect with God? *Who* is qualified to reconnect with God?" Much of Church history is about Christians trying to answer these questions...

## Ancient History

Throughout history, Christians have held meetings called \_\_\_\_\_ where they try to agree on what is needed to reconnect with God and who is qualified to reconnect with God. At the **Council of Jerusalem**, they decided that \_\_\_\_\_ (non-Jews) could reconnect with God through Christ.

The Roman Empire persecuted the Christians until the early 300s, when Emperor \_\_\_\_\_ stopped the persecutions and called the **Council of Nicaea**, where Christians decided that people need to believe that Jesus is fully human and fully \_\_\_\_\_ in order to reconnect with God. They also wrote the Nicene \_\_\_\_\_, which we read every Sunday.

The Church held more six more councils, all agreeing that belief in the **dual nature** of Christ is necessary to reconnect with God. However, the Church split into the East and West because they could no longer agree on what was necessary to reconnect with God. The West became known as the \_\_\_\_\_ and the East became the **Eastern Orthodox Church**.

## Approximate

### Timeline

PENTECOST

50 CE

325 CE

381

431

451

553

681

787

1054

## Medieval History

Followers of **Islam** called Muslims began to grow and spread, the Bubonic **plague** wiped out a quarter of Europe and **political** disagreements abounded. The Church responded to these problems by deciding that Muslims, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ were not permitted to reconnect with God. This decision resulted in the Crusades, anti-Semitism and the burning of heretics. "**Heresy**" means "\_\_\_\_\_ " and the Christians in power did not like it when other Christians made their own choices about what is necessary to reconnect with God.

## Reformation History

Martin Luther believed that **faith in Christ** was all that was needed to reconnect with God and protested against the Christians in power, who thought that much more was necessary to reconnect. Luther launched the \_\_\_\_\_. The King of England, **Henry VIII**, joined the movement and founded the Church of England, also called the \_\_\_\_\_. Queen **Elizabeth** decided to **include** both Catholic and Protestant ideas in the Anglican Church and stop burning heretics. She also commissioned the writing of the **Book of \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer**.

## Modern History

England's many colonies around the world (in Canada, Australia, South Africa, Scotland and others) became part of the **Anglican Church** or Communion. The English colonies in North America were also Anglican but changed their name after the American Revolution. We called ourselves "**Episcopalians**" and still do. Like the Catholic Church, we have Bishops who **oversee** a Diocese. Like Protestants, we emphasize Scripture and faith in Christ. Episcopalians believe there are **many ways to reconnect** with God and \_\_\_\_\_ is welcome to reconnect with God, regardless of **race** (Absalom Jones), **gender** (Bishop Barbara Harris), and **sexual orientation** (Bishops Gene Robinson and Mary Glasspool). Today, Episcopalians are on the forefront of affirming and inviting others to reconnect with God.

## Timeline

1000

1100

1200

1300

1400

1500

1517

**1534**

1600

1700

1776

1800

1804

1978

2003

2010

2020