



ADVENT ANGLICAN
NEW MEMBERS

My Heart is a Holy Place

My heart is a holy place
Wiser and holier than I know it to be
Wiser than my lips can speak
A spring of mystery and grace.

You have created my heart
And have filled it with things of wonder.
You have sculpted it, shaped it with your hands
Touched it with your breath.
In its own season it reveals itself to me.

It shows me rivers of gold
Flowing in elegance
And hidden paths of infinite beauty.
You touch me with your stillness as I await its time.
You have made it a dwelling place of richness and intricacies
Of wisdom beyond my understanding
Of grace and mysteries, from your hands.



WELCOME

PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS
THEOLOGICALLY CURIOUS
CHARITABLE SKEPTICS
PEOPLE WHO "LIVE THE QUESTIONS"
BELIEVERS
UNBELIEVERS

"BE MERCIFUL TO THOSE WHO DOUBT."

JUDE 1:22



The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship.”

N.T. Wright

My Story

- Associate Professor - English
- Tradition = Evangelical / Reformed / Baptist / Non-Denominational / Presbyterian / Low Church / Sola Scriptura / "Personal Relationship with Jesus" sort of Christian.
- My parents: genuine disciples.
- Graduate School (A confrontation with the "post-truth" ideologies of the late 20th century).
- I needed spiritual mentors. I found them among the ranks of the dead.





Easter Wings
George Herbert

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne
And still with sicknesses and shame.
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

John Donne

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.



T.S. Eliot

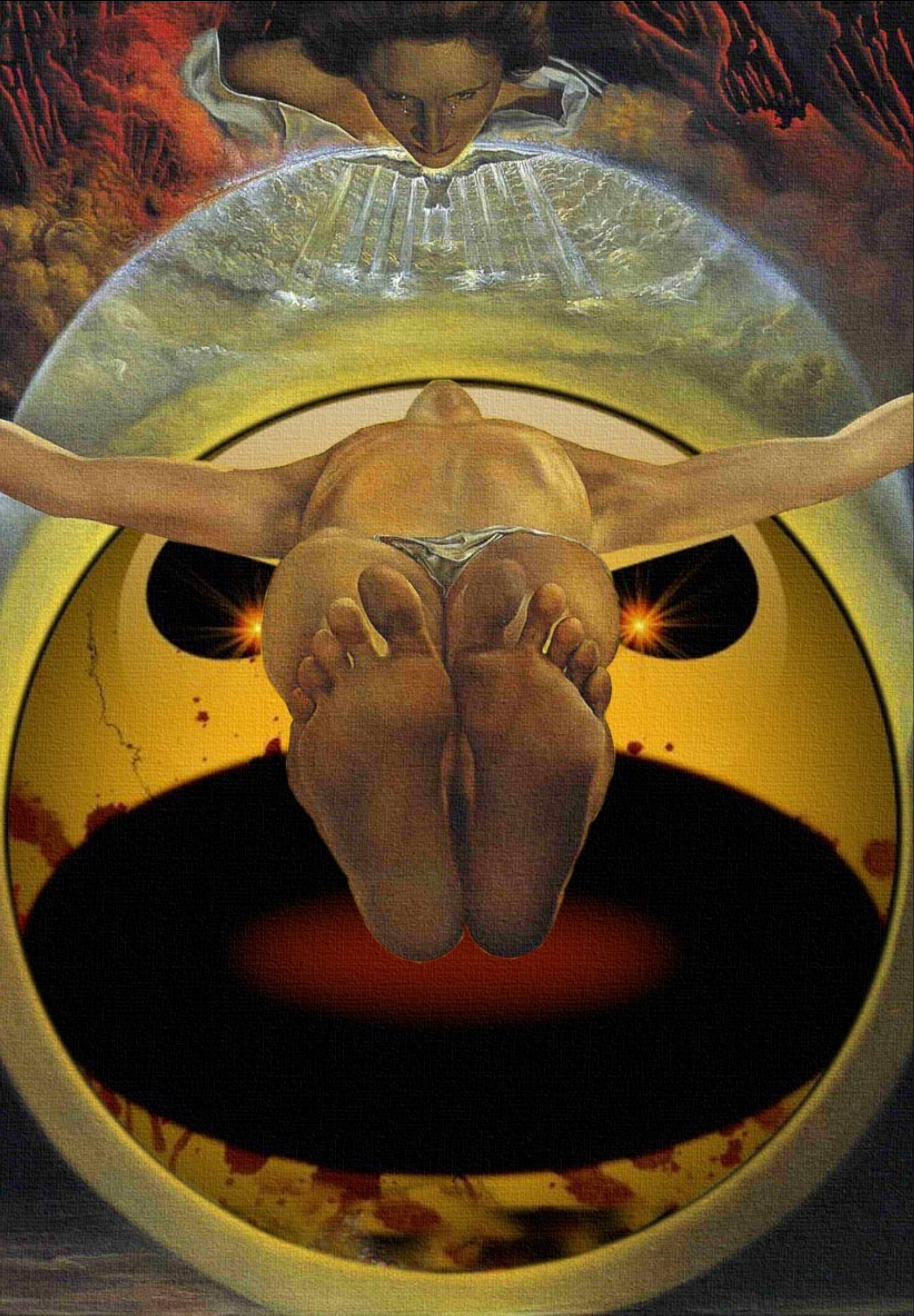
The World is trying the experiment of attempting to form a civilized but non-Christian mentality. The experiment will fail; but we must be very patient in awaiting its collapse; meanwhile redeeming the time: so that the Faith may be preserved alive through the dark ages before us; to renew and rebuild civilization, and save the World from suicide.”



What do these individuals all have in common?



THE ANGLICAN WAY



Premise:

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the re-enchantment of human history.

Question:

How can we best inhabit this reality?

THE ANGLICAN WAY

THE VIA MEDIA (4)

CONSERVATIVE / LIBERAL
ORTHODOX / CHARISMATIC
CATHOLIC / PROTESTANT
CONTEMPLATIVE / ACTIVIST



If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

- Solzhenitsyn



THE ANGLICAN WAY

Origins
(14-16)



Cademon's Hymn (658-680 AD)



Now we must praise the protector of the heavenly kingdom
the might of the measurer and his mind's purpose,
the work of the father of glory, as he for each of his wonders,
the eternal Lord, established a beginning.
He shaped first for the sons of the earth
heaven as a roof, the holy maker;
then the middle-earth, mankind's guardian,
the eternal Lord, made afterwards,
solid ground for men, the almighty Lord.

The Anglican Way

- Re-enchants the universe.
- Everyone has a liturgy / high priest.
- Worship as re-enactment / drama. Eucharist is the culmination of Anglican worship.
- Attentive to the arts. Beauty = Evangelism.
- Robust enough to endure the "changes and chances" of this life.
- I have no place else to go. Anglicanism as "moveable feast."





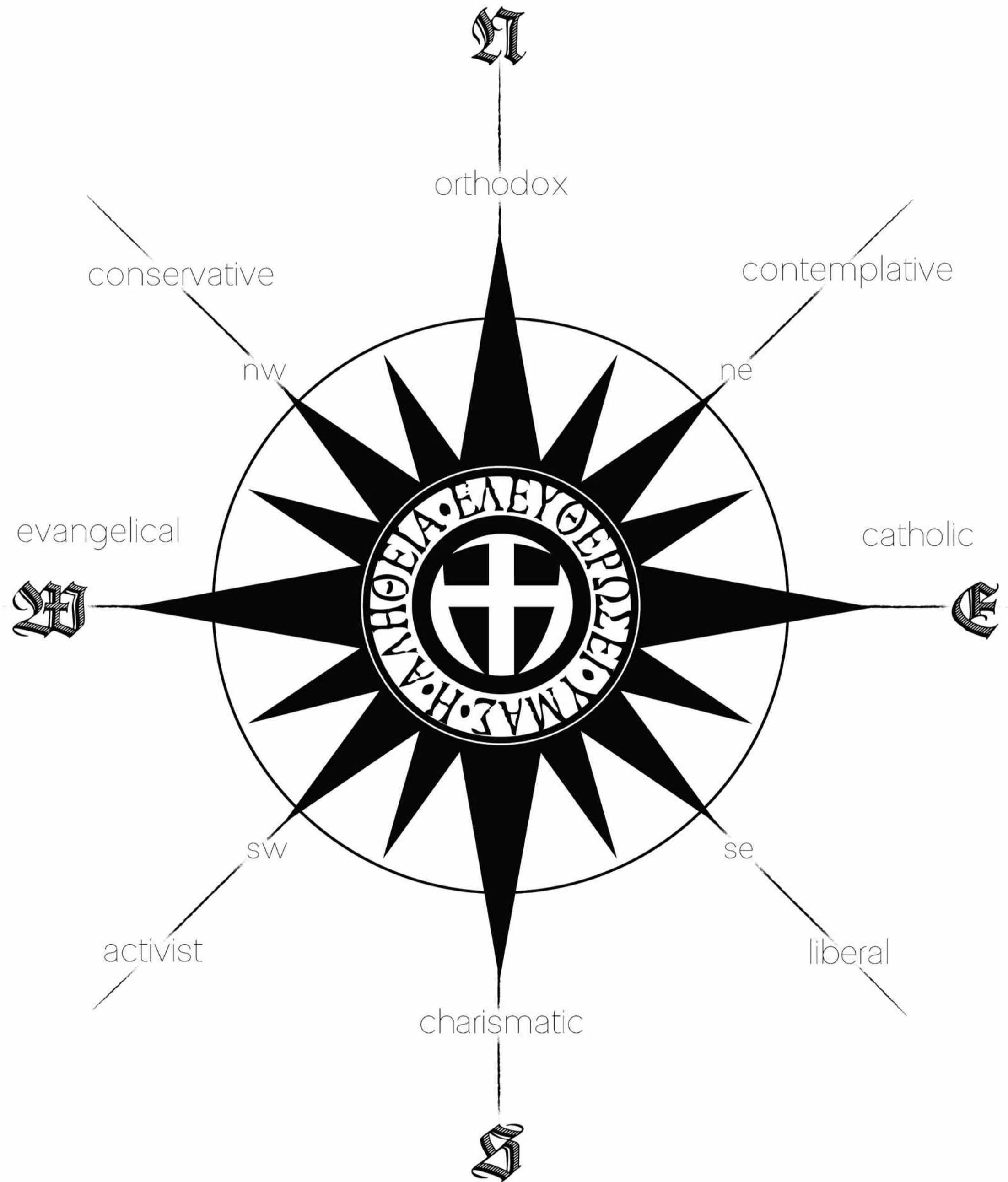
Love / Boundaries / Distinctives / Essentials (10).

Reinvigorates our vision of true liberty ("the truth will set you free" / John 8:31-32).

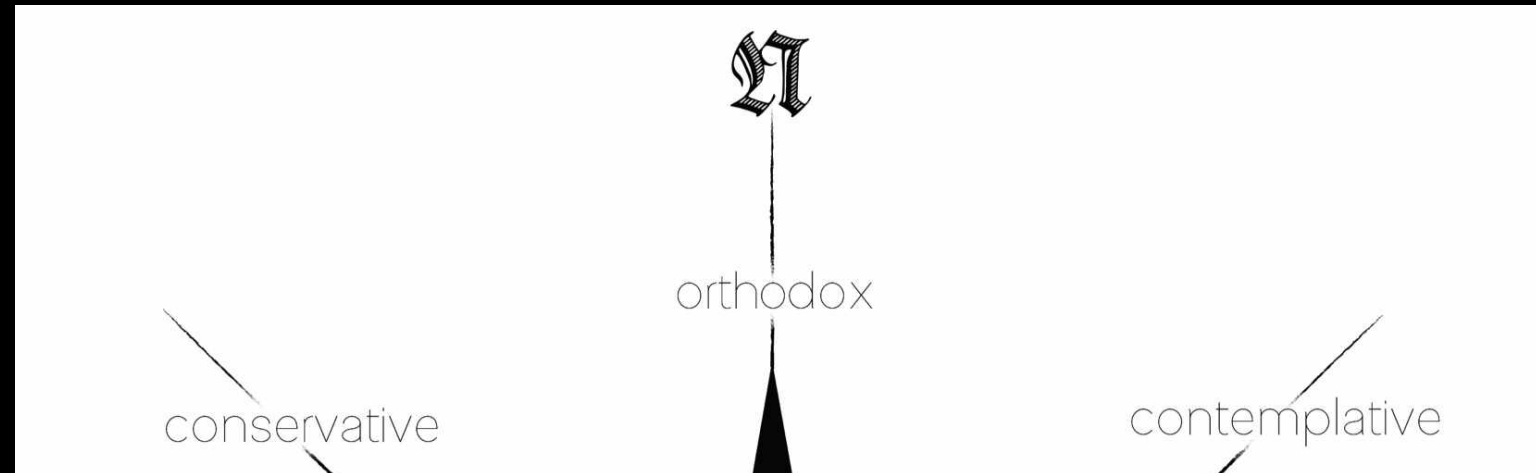
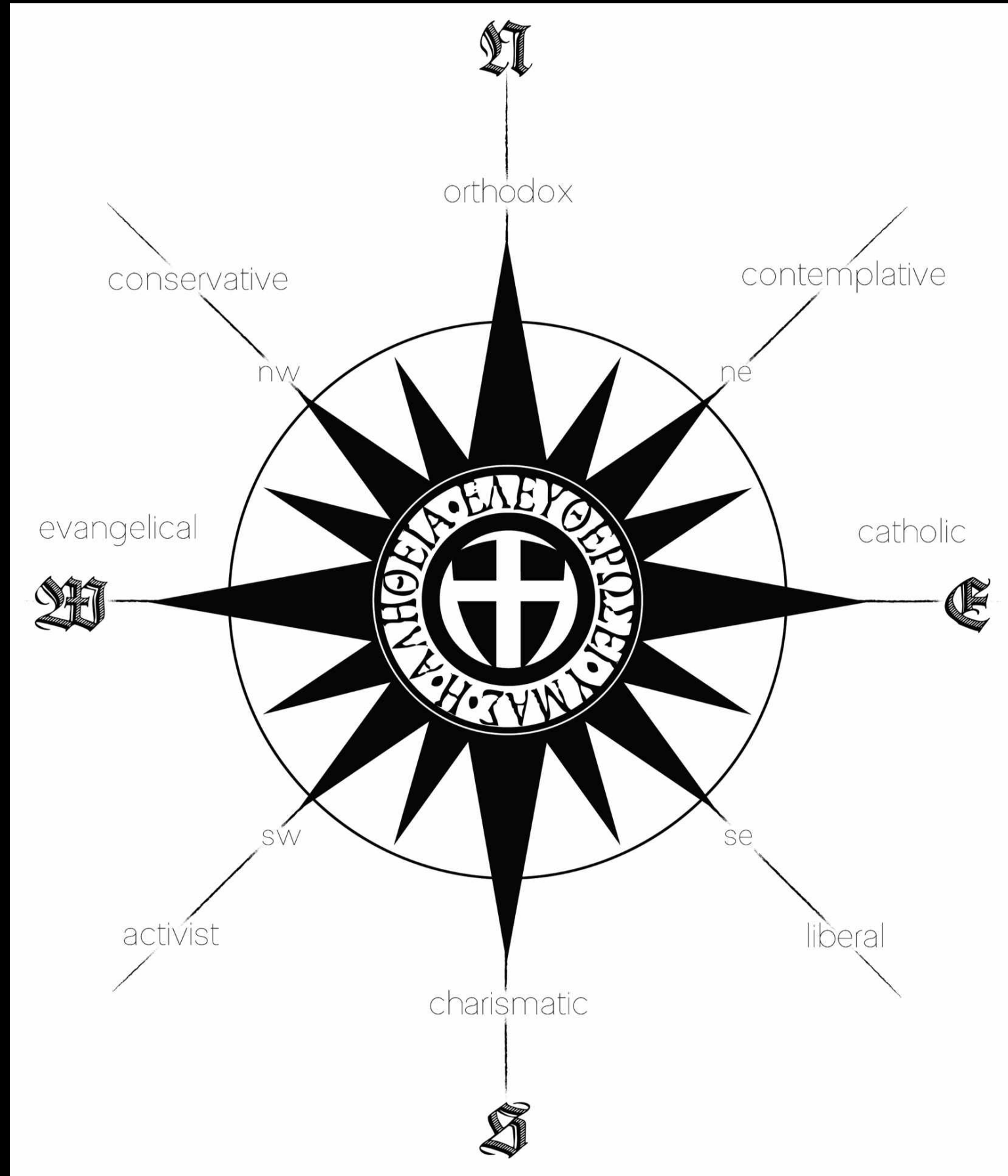
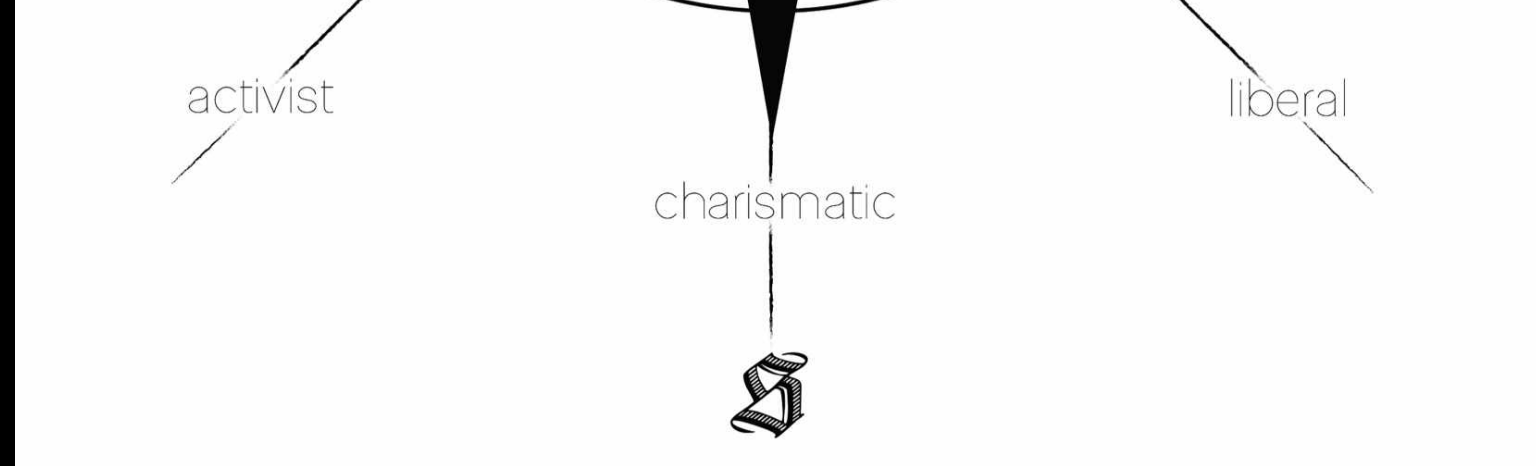
The Compass Rose. There are boundaries. Any point of the compass can lead us outside the necessary limits of orthodoxy (22).

God's truth is bigger than our tribes. We need one another (23).

Anglicanism is a great "cup" (2) / a "secondary affection" that helps us follow Jesus.



THE COMPASS ROSE



How The Anglican Way Finds Expression

4 / Evangelical - Me

5 / Catholic - We

6 / Charismatic - Here

7 / Orthodox - There

8 / Activist - Do

9 / Contemplative - Be

10 / conservative - Stop

11 / Liberal - Go



Activity

Groups of Four

Find people you don't know.

Where do you often reside on The Compass Rose?

What "points" would you find challenging to encounter at Advent Anglican?

Where can we find unity? What is McKenzie's answer to this question?

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.

Flare up like a flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.