

A TRADITION WITH EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IS THAT IF YOU GO TO A STRANGE CITY, YOU CAN READILY IDENTIFY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AS THE ONE WITH THE RED DOORS.

THE RED DOOR TRADITION ORIGINATED DURING THE MIDDLE AGES IN ENGLAND WHEN IT WAS A SIGN OF SANCTUARY. IN THOSE DAYS, IF ONE WHO WAS BEING PURSUED BY THE LOCAL POPULACE, SHIRE REEVE (SHERIFF) OR GENTRY COULD REACH THE CHURCH DOOR HE/SHE WOULD BE SAFE.

NOBODY WOULD DARE TO DO VIOLENCE ON HALLOWED GROUND AND, IN ANY CASE, THE CHURCH WAS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL LAW. THE RED DOOR WAS FAIR WARNING TO PURSUERS THAT THEY COULD PROCEED NO FURTHER. ONE WHO CLAIMED SANCTUARY IN THIS WAY WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO PRESENT HIS/HER CASE BEFORE THE PRIEST AND ASK THAT JUSTICE BE SERVED.

IT ALSO REPRESENTS A WELCOMING CHURCH, A CHURCH THAT OPENS ITS ARMS AND DOORS TO EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

PAINTING THE DOOR BRIGHT RED IS SAID, WAS A BOW TO TRADITION AND THE SPIRIT OF SANCTUARY.