

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Serving, Supporting, and Encouraging Prayer

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Winter 2021

Giving a Unique Gift *Paul Feheley, National Director*

The parish where my ministry is centered has a food bank and every Wednesday a group of dedicated young students bake cookies that are shared for all who come. Nothing particularly exceptional about that you might say, but what does make it unique is that the students take the time to write messages on the packages. One message read 'always know someone cares about you'. What the students are doing is giving a sense of dignity to those who are receiving. Those who received not only were fed in their bodies- but that short note also meant someone cared, someone spoke to them in their heart and soul.

There is little that is more important than one's personal sense of dignity. A person's self-worth can suffer daily loss from lack of acceptance, belittlement, discrimination, poverty, or disregard.

Those who are struggling with their sense of worth almost always say that while they are grateful for things of substance what they need most is a person to talk to them, to see them not just as a "needy" person but as a human being who values them for who they are. In our haste to judge them we too often forget that they are beloved children of God who are made in God's image and given a birthright by our Creator.

This Christmas I would ask you to look among your friends, those in your parish and community and to seek those who may be struggling with personal dignity. The unique gift you can offer will not be tangible things but love, compassion, time, conversation, respect, and prayer. Our calling as Christian people is a journey to lift, to affirm with our words, and listen to those whom God has placed before us.

The members of our executive join me in wishing you and your family a joyful Christmas that finds you searching for those who need the unique gift that only you can offer. God's peace be with you.



There is more to life than we previously imagined. Angels hide in every nook and cranny, magi masquerade as everyday people, and shepherds wear the garments of day labourers. The whole earth is brimming with glory for those with eyes to see and ears to hear.

~Howard Thurman

"Angel" Some rights reserved (CC BY-SA 2.0) by Nikolaj Potanin. Source: Flickr

O Come, O Come Emmanuel! *Paul Dumbrille*

Many of us are familiar with the hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", which is sung most often in Advent. Each verse parallels what are called the "O Antiphons" of Advent. In the Middle Ages, these Antiphons were developed and traditionally sung at Evening Prayer (Vespers) in the seven days before Christmas. They are also echoed in the Advent Litany in the Book of Alternative Services (Pg. 119). They add a mood of eager expectation that builds throughout these seven days and climaxes at Christmas.

Each *O Antiphon* begins with an invocation of the expected Messiah, using a title attributed to the Messiah in Old Testament. Each title is followed by praise of him and ends with a petition for God's people, relevant to the title by which he is addressed, and the cry for him to "Come".

The seven titles that are attributed to Jesus in the antiphons are Wisdom, Ruler of the House of Israel, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Dawn, King of the Gentiles, and Emmanuel.

*For more information on the O Antiphons,
please follow our Facebook page the week before Christmas, or visit our Website*



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"God of hope, be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond, be with us in our meeting and in our travelling together, be with us in our worship and our praying together, be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond, our God of hope. Amen."

-from faithandworship.com

Let Us Pray!

Looking ahead to the new year, we will continue this monthly hour of prayer, at 1pm EST. We are inviting people to join us for some or all of the hour. It will be a mixture of biblical readings, reflection, music, intercession, silence and other types and kinds of prayer. You are welcome to actively participate or simply listen and pray quietly. Please note that in February we are meeting on the fourth Monday of the month, as the third Monday is a statutory holiday in many provinces.

This Winter we are looking forward to hearing from:

December 20: An Advent/Christmas Service from St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto

January 17: When Words are Not Enough with Jane Bourcet

February 28: Praying the Lord's Prayer

The Zoom link noted below is the same both months. To join on computer, please click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82001408803?pwd=WXRmWFJZSHRLcUYwdGpUU1YvMmlxZz09>
Meeting ID: 820 0140 8803 Passcode: 359803

You can also join us by telephone at one of these numbers:

(with the same meeting ID and passcode): (778)907-2071, (204)272- 7920, (438)809-7799, (587)328-1099, (647)374-4685, (647)558-0588.

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested, and we look forward to your prayer and presence with us.

Lord, Teach Us to Pray by D.A.P. Smith

Reviewed by Bishop David T. J. Lehmann

Lord, Teach Us To Pray is an inspired book and a solid read. Smith offers a depth of perspective and concern for a rich prayer life for all the faithful rooted deep in the Anglican tradition. He shares his concerns for the need to form people in lives of prayer. By addressing the matter of God's love for his people, prayer is the means for that great and expansive dialogue with our Saviour.

The book offers insight in to both corporate and private prayer. While the book is not segmented by corporate and private prayer, there are resources for each.

With Smith's wealth of knowledge of worship in the Anglican Church of Canada, this book is a wonderful resource in preparing people for worship. We are offered a pragmatic and accessible volume. The pandemic has shown the power of the Daily Offices; Smith offers tools to further appreciate this Anglican treasure. Along with this is a profound reflection on all aspects of communal prayer.

In balance with public prayer, Smith offers much for private and personal prayer. The full scope of life is addressed from praying with others to teaching children. Each aspect is grounded in the Anglican tradition and encourages the reader to go deeper into prayer. The encouragement given throughout the book is inspiring.

This is a book that should be read by every cleric and used in catechesis. The practicality of Smith's work is a treasure to be shared in congregations and homes.

*Copies of this book may be ordered from Lord, Teach Us to Pray
5 Railway Street, Perth, Ontario, K7H 2Z6 dap.smith@sympatico.ca*

*A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people
shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'*

~ Isa 40.3-5

Lectio Divina

Following up on our November 'Let Us Pray' presentation... The Episcopal Church is presenting a series of Lectio Divina studies with staff and Anglican Communion partners based on the gospels for Epiphany and the Sundays afterwards. The entire series will be available when it launches in early January. The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany features our national director Archdeacon Paul Fehely who also works for The Episcopal Church as their Partnership Officer for the Middle East. Here is the link for the series:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/global-partnerships/epiphany-gp/>



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The Sign

“On that very special night, all people, of all lands in the world, beheld a beautiful sight! A very bright and shining star arose in the east. It was the biggest and brightest of all the stars in the universe. It was a sign, a sign of something great that was happening. A king was born that night.

A king that would save the world from all the negativity that had befallen it.

The people of all creation knew this meant something wonderful, and they fell to their knees knowing that someone greater than anything in the world had come to them.

They were humbled by the experience and rejoiced in the news!

There came a renewal of peace and joy in the world, and all creation bowed to their new king. The King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the Comforter, the Counsellor, the Lily of the Valley, the Redeemer, the Saviour, had been born this night”

~Art by Abe Kakepetum; Writing by Eva Kakepetum,

In *Woodland Art and Wisdom of Artist and Elder Abe Kakepetum*. Used with Permission.



Our AFP Finances

Our Executive has decided that we would not conduct a major fundraising effort this year. Our sense is people are very weary from covid, from being “shut-in” in so many ways, and from endless news stories that only heighten our anxiety and frustration. This past year (to say nothing of the year before) has been difficult and challenging for all of us. We still need money, and if you are able to make a contribution to the Fellowship of Prayer- thank you. We value our community of people across the country and thank you for your prayers and all the support you give us.

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Next Newsletter: Mar 2022

Submission deadline: Mar 1, 2022