

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

Serving, supporting, and encouraging prayer

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Ven. Paul Fehleley



*Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:20*

A friend recently asked “What is your favourite hymn?” I quickly corrected him indicating that the question had to be in the plural- ‘hymns’ as there was no way in the world to limit my answer to one.

In searching for answers to my friend’s question I was thinking of the wonderful hymns associated with Thanksgiving and the harvest season. *Now Thank we all our God* or *For the fruits of all Creation* are two that quickly come to mind. Another superb hymn for this season is, ‘We plough the fields and scatter’, although I must confess I always feel a little uneasy singing this, thinking that God and many farmers throughout the

country are saying to me, ‘No you didn’t!’

Music and especially hymns have always played a significant part in my life and also contribute in important ways to my prayer life. For me, a favourite hymn needs a beautiful tune that can be easily sung and words that are poetic. A beloved hymn will always be more than words and music, it will speak to the heart and allow us to feel the peace and loving presence of God

One thanksgiving hymn that allows me to feel that is Henry Smith’s, ‘Give Thanks’

“Give thanks with a grateful heart;

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He’s given

Jesus Christ, His Son.”

“And now let the weak say, “I am strong!”

Let the poor say, “I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us.”

Give thanks!”

Henry was born in North Carolina in 1952. It is fascinating that he has written over 300 songs but only this one has been published. He wrote it in 1978 at a time when having earned a college degree he was struggling to find steady work, and his eyesight was failing because of a degenerative condition that would eventually leave him legally blind. From the heart of a struggling person overflowed the song that has become, not only a great hymn, but a prayer of thanksgiving.

A remarkable story related to this hymn appeared in the St Augustine (Florida) Record newspaper in November 19, 2015:

“In Uzbekistan, a country just north of the war-torn land of Afghanistan, a group of Uzbekies are singing a Christian song they recently learned. This is an unusual sight in a unique country.” One photographer said, “Uzbekistan, the crossroads of Asia, is an elusive mixture of Soviet industrial atheism, Islam and the Orient. Crossing the Khyzl-kum desert in a Lada, a Russian made car, left a lasting impression.” The group is singing Henry Smith’s “Give Thanks,” which had traveled from America to this extraordinary place.”

In this season of Thanksgiving use the gifts around you (be they people, art, music or nature) to be inspired and to feel ‘Thanksgiving’. Pause in prayer, not to give God a ‘shopping list’ of what you are thankful for, but what speaks to your heart and moves you to honestly say or sing that you “Give thanks with a grateful heart.”

PRAYER for MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

Loving God,
be present to, and watch over,
migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those who are separated from their loved ones,
those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes.
No one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.
Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who too was a refugee and migrant,
and who travelled to another land,
searching for a home. Amen.

GOD CARES

God cares when the trials of life overwhelm you
And threaten to drown you in sadness and woe;
God cares when life's very foundations are shaking,
When deep waters of trouble would fain overflow.

God cares and remembers 'mid daily frustrations
When the enemy whispers just what is the use?
God cares whenever your heart is nigh breaking
And for doubting in Him there seems lots of excuse.

God cares in life's race when you think you are losing
Understands when life's doors seem to shut in your face;
He's promised His love will remain with you always,
Turn tears about face with a smile in their place.

God cares when the road seems rough and uncertain,
Understands when life's burdens grow heavy and grim;
He bids you look upward when hope has deserted,
He bids you stop doubting, find anchor in Him.

Marjorie Cooney

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR EXECUTIVE

Member at Large: The Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz

Laura Marie is a high-energy priest who served as diocesan staff and parish priest in rural, suburban, and urban parishes in southern Ontario and Manitoba. She is presently in St. Catharines, within the Diocese of Niagara.

She considers church to be a verb, and is passionate about matters of social, ecological, gender, and food justice. Committed to life-long learning, she is undertaking a Doctor of Ministry degree through Trinity College (Toronto) with a focus on the correlation of prayer and burnout.

In her free time, she can be found writing, reading, running, or canoeing. She loves playing with her dogs, listening to jazz, and drinking good coffee.



~~ NEWS ~~

Welcome New Diocesan Representatives!

Martha Westgate, James Bay Deanery, Diocese of Moosonee

Vivian Clarke, Watershed Deanery, Diocese of Moosonee

Patricia Skinner, Diocese of the Yukon

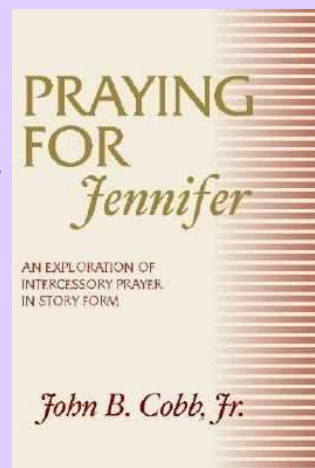
BOOK REVIEW

Praying for Jennifer by John B. Cobb, Jr.

Reviewed by Paul Dumbrille

This book would be of interest to anybody who takes seriously praying for others. I have found it useful in my own understanding of how to think about God and how God acts in our world. It explores the nature of God's power, and why there is so much apparent perverse evil in the world. This book is one of many books written by John B. Cobb, Jr., Ph.D., who is Professor of Theology Emeritus at the Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, California, and Co-Director of the Center for Process Studies there.

Told in the form of a story, the book begins with a car accident involving several teenagers, and in which one of them, Jennifer, is severely injured. The survivors ask questions about the place of prayer in their support of Jennifer. Through the questions, explorations, and prayers by the unhurt young people, the book uses their conversations with several adults they trust to discover for themselves the place of Intercessory prayer and an understanding of what God does and what we do in relation to those for whom we pray.



CURRENT WORK OF YOUR AFP EXECUTIVE

The Rev Valerie Kenyon

AFP-C Appeal Letter:

Please find enclosed our annual AFP-C Appeal Letter: **Come Pray with Us - 2017.**

We are extending an invitation to our praying partners to share our energy, prayers and money to help support this important work to which God has called us all.

Donations can be made by mail or by visiting our website: www.anglicanprayer.org and following the links.



YouTube:

As providing resources are central to our mandate, we are always looking for ways to share as broadly as possible materials that can be used to encourage prayer in a wide range of situations. This past year we have been working on the development of an AFP (Canada) YouTube Channel. In the months ahead, materials will be posted on this channel that could be used for local events and gatherings of all sizes. For more information about this, and accompanying support materials, please visit: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCULOKI2W9yo81cvSGzB_cqA

Prayers of the People:

This was a joint initiative with the Society of St. John the Evangelist, in the format of an online prayer wall, challenging pray-ers to share a daily themed prayer on social media. We started with "Canada Prays" in autumn 2016. Anyone can sign up to receive a daily prayer in the email at www.prayersofthepeople.org

Thy Kingdom Come:

Similar in structure to prayersofthepeople.org, this initiative by the Archbishop of Canterbury encourages a global wave of prayer, online and through a variety of prayer events and vigils. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer participated in 2017; plans are already underway for 2018. www.thykingdomcome.global

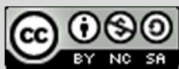
Resourcing the Newly Ordained:

Did you know that since 1996, thanks to the generosity of Nan Henderson, and the tireless efforts of our Resource Co-ordinator Paul Dumbrille, the AFP has been making resources available to the newly ordained? While we are tweaking exactly how this is done, ensuring that resources are in the hands of those beginning new ministry is of key importance. If you are newly ordained or know of someone who is, and have not heard from us, please let us know and we will be in touch.

Oh My God: Making Prayer a Priority – June 4-8, 2018 – St John's College, Winnipeg:

Every three years AFP (Canada) sponsors a national gathering where diocesan representatives and others interested in prayer, come together to consult, to encourage, to learn and to be inspired in their work. In 2018 we will be meeting in Winnipeg around the theme of Making Prayer a Priority in our lives, in our parishes, and in our world. Please set these dates aside and plan on attending.

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Next newsletter - Advent 2017