

# Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

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Easter 2019

*Serving, Supporting, and Encouraging Prayer*

## **Thy Kingdom Come: A Global Wave of Prayer**

*Guest Post by Emma Buchanan, Project Manager*

As we live in the drama of Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter we lay our lives on top of the story of salvation and each year find new perspectives, encouragements and meeting places. We identify this story as our story and are remade again and again as we are met by the God who makes our story his story thereby redeeming the whole world.

But we know far more about the drama of suffering, pain and death than we truly know of resurrection. So we sense the wounded healer with us in our world of crosses, but struggle to comprehend quite where the meeting place for resurrection is.

This is true for our own lives and for the church. It is easy to be disheartened by the difference between the new life we long for and what we actually see.

But Eastertide brings us this Good News - the dead body of Christ always rises. It is in this sure and certain hope that we pray, live and work.

The forty days of Eastertide look forward to the renewal of all things - not simply when all things will be made new - but in the land of the living. The only agent of this resurrection life in the middle of this world is the Spirit who brought life to the dead body of Christ.

The Spirit of life brings life-raising to the body of Christ.

Our prayers then are rightly focussed on seeking the empowering of the Holy Spirit that we might know and be God's witnesses and agents of resurrection life in the midst of this world. In this we join with hundreds of millions around the globe praying for a fresh empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement for witness and evangelism - calling Christians to pray for more people to come to faith in Christ and for the empowering of the Holy Spirit to become effective witnesses - between Ascension and Pentecost.

Reclaiming the richness of this traditional time of prayer, the movement initially started as an invitation by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Anglican Communion but now, 3 years later, involves Christians from more than 65 denominations and traditions in over 114 countries worldwide.

There is a range of resources available in 8 languages, including worship, prayer journal, an adventure map, devotionals and a podcast.

Please visit our website at [www.ThyKingdomCome.global](http://www.ThyKingdomCome.global) for information and engagement opportunities.

## Current Work of the AFP Executive

By Val Kenyon, AFP Executive Chair



In preparation for this newsletter as I reviewed the various ways that the Executive of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer supports and encourages prayer across the Canadian dioceses, I realized that I had neglected to mention one central and important activity. While we, of course, dedicate our time to supporting Diocesan Contacts, reviewing and creating resources of all kinds, publishing a regular newsletter, and looking after the different administrative functions that need attention, we are most importantly a group of Anglicans who believe in and are actively

committed to prayer. As our long-time resource coordinator Paul Dumbrille faithfully reminds us in his contributions to our website, Prayer Matters. And so, while much will keep us occupied, most especially in this joyous season of Easter, of new life and renewed hope, we continue to pray for the Church, for those we have asked to lead us, and for every one of you who are interested in and supportive of the work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer in Canada. We are remembering you before our gracious God. We appreciate you remembering us.

Yours in prayer, Val Kenyon

## Prayer for the Election of a Primate

*“Almighty God, giver of all good gifts,  
look on your Church with grace,  
and guide the minds of those who shall choose a Primate  
for our beloved Church,  
that we may receive a faithful servant  
who will care for your people  
and support us in our ministries;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid: I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." Mt 28.5-6b

# Prayer Vigils

*Paul Dumbrille*

We often hear about a “vigil” being held outside a home or at a specific location when a tragedy strikes, such as when multiple people are killed from a tragic accident or crime. Dictionaries define a vigil as a period of keeping awake and watchful, especially during a time that is often spent asleep. However, when an event is announced as a Christian “Prayer Vigil”, we might wonder what it is; why it is being carried out; where one might be held; and how long it lasts.

In a Christian setting a Prayer Vigil focuses prayer on a specific event, an urgent need, or a particular issue. For a set period, usually in a designated place, people concentrate on expectant listening and communicating with God. We do this in response to Jesus saying, “Watch and Pray”. The vigil can be described as “watchfulness” and Scripture confirms that power is released through concerted prayer: Matt. 17:21; Matt. 18:20; Acts 1:14, Eph. 6:18-19. Prayer Vigils are held in a variety of places. One of the easiest places to keep focused in prayer is before a cross in a church, but any place is a potential location where prayer can be offered. If indoors, as an aid to providing a focus for prayer, a cross, an open Bible, and perhaps a candle on a small covered table are helpful. There is no set time for a Prayer Vigil, but ideally it lasts for a relatively lengthy time, often 12-24 hours continuously. Individuals can pledge to participate for segments of 15, 30 or 60 minutes. Longer vigils for synods or conventions may cover up to two weeks during meeting hours, with many people participating. Sometimes a “virtual vigil” is organized with people not gathering in any specific place but committing to pray for an identified reason for a specific time. Participants in a Prayer Vigil may be anyone who believes in God and appreciates that God responds to our prayers in a variety of ways. Often existing prayer groups are a good source of people to keep vigil.

I have participated in several kinds of Prayer Vigils over the years. In June 2007 I was privileged to be part of a group of people from across my own Diocese praying at a Prayer Vigil in the chapel of our Cathedral in Ottawa when our current Bishop was elected. I have also participated for many years in a very different type of Prayer Vigil. This Vigil is held in the sanctuary and chapel of our parish church, all night, starting after the Maundy Thursday evening worship service until the celebration of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning. In this case, the church is kept open all night, and people can come and go at any time, and stay for as long as they wish. However, there is a signup sheet for individuals or groups to commit to certain times ahead of time, so that there is always a guarantee of at least one person being in the church.

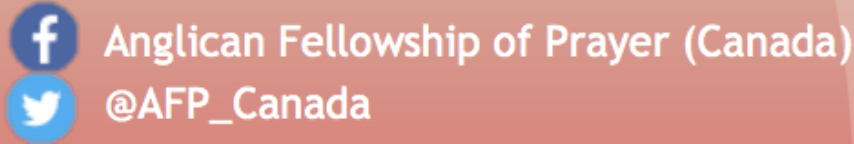
The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada is being held this year in Vancouver, July 10-16. Amongst other items, it will include the election of a new Primate to replace Archbishop Fred Hiltz, who is retiring. One of the most memorable prayer vigils I participated in was in a chapel in the Cathedral in Winnipeg during the several hours of balloting and election of our current Canadian Anglican Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, I am hoping that many groups and individuals will be part of prayer vigils during General Synod.

*“Our Lord has written the promise of Resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf of springtime.”*

*~Martin Luther*

# Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

PO Box 78084, Nepean, ON K2E 1B1  
www.anglicanprayer.org



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newsletter@anglicanprayer.org

Next Newsletter: Pentecost 2019  
Submission deadline: May 13, 2019



## Book Review

Journey Into Joy: Stations of the Resurrection  
by Andrew Walker  
*Reviewed by Laura Marie Piotrowicz*

We journey intentionally through the season of Lent, increasing our spiritual disciplines through Holy Week and the Triduum. While much of society seems to think that Easter disappears as quickly as that famous chocolate-bearing bunny, those of us who are Christians relish in the 50 days of the full season of Alleluias!

This book leads that Easter journey into joy from the discovery of the empty tomb to the day of Pentecost. Each station offers scripture, art, poetry, and meditation to encourage the reader to continue on their spiritual path. This book helps emphasize how Easter becomes the starting point of joy and the longing for deeper relationship with God.

