

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

AFP-C NEWSLETTER—Vol. 24, No. 2

EASTER 2016



Photo by

Simon Chambers

A “quiet” Easter

Archdeacon Paul Feheley

Of the many words that we might associate with Easter and resurrection: triumphant, glorious, victory, few of them would be considered “quiet” words. You could very legitimately argue that Easter, the most important festival in the Christian year, needs to be shouted, proclaimed and celebrated with the highest degree of joy and excitement possible. We need to sing with gusto and energy Jesus Christ is Risen Today and The Hallelujah Chorus. No argument from me about that, but this year through the gift of prayer, I invite you to consider the quietness of Easter.

To experience Easter is to discern that our hearts, minds and souls are moved in a new way to a place of quiet confidence; knowing that Christ is with us in all things. It is to feel the blessed assurance and discover within that despite pain, anxiety and challenge that Jesus is walking with me on my road to Emmaus. It is to know that with Mary I can understand that Jesus is calling my name and that I too can recognize him through my tears of confusion and grief.

Sometime over the Easter season I invite you to pray, to talk quietly to God in your own words and thoughts, asking to enter into the quietness of Easter. It may be on a walk, sitting quietly in a church or a place of rest. It may be early in the morning or late at night that you find yourself not shouting or broadcasting but rather caressing in your heart that Jesus lives. The quietness of that loving moment makes all the difference in the world.

Current Work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Rev'd Val Kenyon

I live on a small lot in a century home in London, Ontario. We have taken up our front and back lawns and replaced them for the most part with simple perennial gardens. The reason for a perennial garden, of course, is that while I love the garden, I do not consider myself much of a gardener. Perhaps I can manage a few strategically placed pots here and there with kitchen herbs nearby to add a little spice to my cooking, but the care and maintenance of a full garden would be a bit more than I can handle. Yet even in the simplest of gardens, the arrival of Spring can be seen at work, as all winter the plants have been resting, gathering potential for the coming season, for all that will be next as with each warm day, their shoots (especially those of the daring snowdrops) burst forth through the cold earth, reaching towards the sun, determined to make a showing. There is something of an ache to spring. Do you feel it? Spring just cannot contain itself ... life *must* break forth. And gardens are sacred places of new life, growth and transformations of all kinds. At this season of Easter, we return to the Garden, with its empty tomb and its astonished disciples, having witnessed the risen Christ now burst forth, their lives, and indeed all of our lives will never be the same.

At the AFP National Executive, as in our gardens, we continue to tend and consider the different areas within this Fellowship of Prayer that will help it to grow and flourish, and to be of service to those both within our Anglican tradition and without. Much of our time is spent in preparation for General Synod, and we look forward to sharing more of this with you in our next newsletter. As well, work on revising our website and our resources continues, always grateful to hear from any and all what you would find helpful.

And so today, as spring is blossoming all around us, we anticipate God's excellent and ongoing work in our lives, allowing it to work deep into our souls making us whole. Blessings all!



EASTER

CURRENT WORK

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada

P.O. Box 78084, Meriline, NEPEAN, ONTARIO K2E 1B1

www.anglicanprayer.org

AHYAMAYHAATA – LET US PRAY:

ENGAGING THE SPIRIT

Paul Dumbrille, assisted by Richard Moore

On Friday, January 29, fifty excited laity and clergy gathered in the North Adventure Inn, a snow-mobiler's haven on Highway 11, near Cochrane, Ontario for a retreat/workshop. They came from across the Diocese of Moosonee, from Geraldton to Wemindji, Quebec, and as far south as Kirkland Lake to meet with the theme, *Ahyamayhaata* ('Let us Pray' in the Cree language). With support from a grant from the Council of the North, the event was planned and organized by a group led by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake and Deacon Richard Moore, the AFP Moosonee Diocesan Representative. People from 14 parishes/missions with a broad spectrum of backgrounds prayed together and were nourished by presentations and resources that encouraged those who attended to come closer to God and find new ways to connect to the Lord.

I was delighted to be invited to be a part of this wonderful event and represent the AFP National Executive and I brought with me samples of many of the AFP Resources. I also gave a presentation on "Spiritual Pathways to God" and led a workshop entitled "Creative Prayer Planning".

We started each day with a time of meeting in small groups using the Gospel Based Discipleship process of reading Scripture and discerning what it was saying to us that day. This is an excellent way to begin a day.

In addition to my contribution, other sessions were led by:

- Sister Anne Norman, of the Sisters of St. John the Divine, Toronto convent, presented a strongly-researched address on "Lectio Divina", in two sessions, with homework in between.
- Patti Brace, from Laurentian University, led us in praying using Ignatius's "Examen" method.

- Rev. Valerie Isaac gave a hands-on workshop, wherein attendees were able to actually make an Anglican rosary, and instructed in its prayer-use.
- Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley, a Cree priest, talked with us about native spirituality, including the background and meaning and significance of ceremonies such as Smudging and the Prayer of the Four Directions.

I was particularly impressed with the way the indigenous and non-indigenous people worshiped, prayed, and learned together in unity with Christ. There were no barriers between us. I was also struck by Canon Wesley's presentation of the traditions of the native "Way of Life", the title of which contrasts with what we often refer to as a "Rule of Life". What a difference that first word makes!

When it was over, and we were all on our way back to our parishes and homes, I think all of us were inspired to both accelerate our own prayer lives, and to pass on what we had learned and experienced. God's guidance had blessed us.

**NOTE: SAVE A TREE**

Receive the AFP-C newsletter: 1. By email

2. From the AFP-C website: www.anglicanprayer.org

3. By the Postal Service

Let me know: newsletter@anglicanprayer.org

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facebook

**We've started a new Facebook group,
with daily quotes on prayer. Join us at
"Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)"**

Getting to Know Your Executive

Paul Dumbrille



Paul has been a member of the AFP Canada Executive for many years, serving in several capacities including being the Chair of the Committee. For the past several years he has been our Resources Coordinator. As such he manages the acquisition, management, and distribution of AFP's Resources. He has also been the AFP's Diocesan Representative in the Diocese of Ottawa for several years. He recently represented AFP by leading some sessions on prayer in the Diocese of Moosonee.

Paul lives in Ottawa and is active as a member of Julian of Norwich Anglican Church there. After a 30 year career in the Canadian Navy as an electric engineer, he worked an additional 11 years as an engineering project manager for a high tech company. He no longer works for money. He is married to Marg and has two grown children and one grandson, all of whom live in or near Ottawa. Paul has a Diploma in Theology from Thornloe College, is a graduate of the Education for Ministry program, and has been active in Cursillo.

Paul says that he feels closest to God in two quite different circumstances. Those who know Paul see him worshipping God with his body, often raising his hands in praise. He says that Christian music, particularly contemporary praise music, brings him close to God. He also tells us that he experiences God's special presence when he is walking. Among his spiritual adventures have been pilgrimage walks on the Camino de Santiago in Spain and St. Cuthbert's Way in the U.K.

DIOCESE OF HURON:

THE CELTIC WAY OF PRAYER:

deeply grounded in creation and the ordinary

2016 Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference

Saturday, May 7, 2016 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

St Paul's Cathedral, London \$20.00 Lunch Included

**Join us as Bishop Barry Clarke , currently serving as Dean of our Cathedral,
shares with us his experience of Celtic Spirituality.**

Doors open at 9:00am for book and AFP Resource browsing and registration

To register please contact: Rev'd Kim Metelka : kametelka@gmail.com;

2896 Old Lakeshore Road Bright's Grove, Ontario N0N 1C0; 519-869-2403 or text info



HEALING WITH MUSIC AND LAUGHTER CONFERENCE

Friday, September 23 - Saturday, September 24, 2016

610 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Sponsored by the Order of St. Luke

Cost: Free Will Offering

**Registrar: OSL Secretary Shelley Andres 204-687-5744
sandres@mymts.net**

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTER PRAYERS

by Paul Dumbrille

God, during Lent and Holy Week we have walked with Jesus along a sad road that ended in the glory and joy of resurrection. As we walk along the road of our life, may our sadness be transformed to joy and resurrection by the presence of Jesus in our lives. May your light so shine through us before others that they may see your good works and glorify you.



Gracious God, the resurrection of Jesus has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

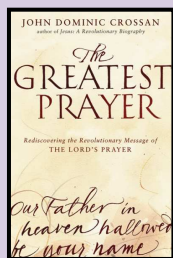
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you do marvellous things!
 When we are walking in darkness, you are there, you are there.
 When we are kneeling in weakness, you are there, you are there.
 When we draw near feeling worthless, you are there, you are there.
 When we need forgiveness, you are there, you are there.
 When we search for your grace, you are there, you are there.
 We give thanks to you, Lord, for you do marvellous things!

"The Greatest Prayer:

Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer"

by John Dominic Crossan. Harper Collins, 2010, 190 pages.

Reviewed by Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz



This very accessible book encourages readers and prayers to delve deeper into the Lord's Prayer. Recognizing that this prayer is used across time and space, and across denominations (and religions), the author invites us as pray-ers to consider what we mean when we say the comfortable and familiar words.

He proposes that the prayer is meant to be both radical (in its biblical vision of justice) and hopeful (reflecting the rhythm and technique of biblical poetry).

Crossan then gently unveils his thinking of each line of the prayer in unique chapters, connecting biblical exegesis and personal experience, thereby making the prayer timeless as it covers all of the historical human experience.

Readers are challenged with broad notions of community and family, holiness and the mundane, heaven and earth, sin and forgiveness, abundance and scarcity, debt and redemption, violence and salvation.

The book can be used for personal growth and spiritual development, or in the context of group faith nurture. Whether readers agree or disagree with the interpretations and challenges offered by Crossan, the journey to deeper understanding of the prayer that we all pray is time well spent.



AFP-C Newsletter Editor
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 Next newsletter in May 2016.