

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Serving, Supporting, and Encouraging Prayer

Vol 30., No. 1

Lent 2022



Are We There Yet? Paul Feheley, National Director

You are going on a road trip with your family or your grandchildren. The trip takes several hours, so after an hour the children start to get impatient. One of them asks you: Are we there yet?

Sometimes when they want to annoy their parents or grandparents, the children will ask "Are we there yet?" over and over again somewhat like this:

Child: *Are we there yet?* Response: **No.**

Child: *Are we there yet?* Response: **No.**

Child: *Are we there yet?* Response: **No! And stop asking!** (said patiently with great restraint!)

I suspect for all of us that question or a variation of it is asked in a multitude of places and way? Is Covid finished yet? Why can't we have peace yet? Where are you God when I needed you the most?

In *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, Marcus Borg describes discipleship as journeying with Jesus. I wonder if this season of Lent and Easter might be an opportunity for us to consider again what our discipleship means and what our journey with Jesus might look like.

Some of the difficulty we face on the journey is that we constantly start and stop with Jesus. When things are going well, things are smooth we believe God is with us. When we struggle, when we face pain and anxiety, we want to blame God for abandoning us. We need to gaze into a mirror to find where the blame lies. In reality, we have stopped journeying with Jesus.

The disciples followed Jesus through the villages and towns of Galilee and eventually some of them to a cross outside of Jerusalem. How do we follow Jesus? Are we prepared to face the cross with him? Or like others abandon the journey.

When we journey with Jesus, we realize that there are times when he is in front of us to lead us, there are other times when he is behind us because we need to be pushed. But mostly he is beside us, putting his hand in ours. Leading, but never forcing.

What do you look forward to with expectation? What direction will your life go? The answer completely depends on you. God never abandons us. God never quits on us. No matter how often we quit on him.

Take some time during this season to look back and ask when did you see and feel the presence of Jesus? To see those remarkable times where God guided you on your journey of life where God was with you and the decisions you made, where God pointed you in directions that you had not thought of yourself. And then perhaps spend time on your knees to acknowledge the wonder, joy, and leadership of Jesus in your journey of life.

The Lord's Prayer – in Lent, and Every Time *Paul Dumbrille*

This Lent, we can use the Lord's Prayer to broaden how we pray, not just what we pray for.

Our Father in Heaven: Pray with *simplicity*, as a child would, for peace and fellowship.

Hallowed be your name: Pray with *humility* to recognize what is false and ask for guidance to reject it. **Pray** with *love* for those who teach and guide us to recognize truth, and what is holy.

Your Kingdom come: Pray with *conviction* for a stronger faith to live as God would have us live.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven: Pray with *trust* for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to act in loving service.

Give us this day our daily bread: Pray with *expectation* for the needs of self and others. **Pray** with *thanksgiving* for the blessings we receive.

Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors: Pray with *humility* for God's forgiveness.

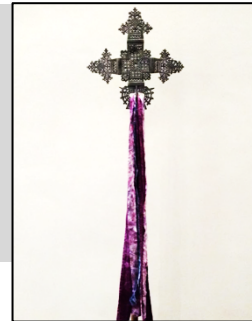
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one: Pray with *confidence* for God's presence when you are tested. **Pray** with *certainty* to receive God's strength to honour God.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever: Pray with *anticipation*, acknowledging that what we ask for is God's to give, and asking for guidance about what we can give.

For more information on the Lord's Prayer, please visit our Website

"God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- BAS page 286



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 pray. You are welcome to actively participate or simply listen and pray quietly.

This Spring we are looking forward to hearing from:

March 21: Praying on Pilgrimage: Redeeming Time (Bp. Victoria Matthews)

April 18: Easter Monday Prayer and Song (Paul Feheley)

May 16: The Spirit Guides our Prayers; also small group discussion on moving forward

June 20: Praying with Icons, including Indigenous icons – Archbishop Anne Germond

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.

Reflections on (Another) COVID Lent *Jane Bourcet*

As this year we seem more worn down and ragged around the edges, we want to avoid becoming frustrated and resentful. Despite the unpredictability of changing restrictions and overwhelming feelings, this Lent I am trying to be mindful, alert to what's around me and to make thoughtful decisions about what I wish to participate in. I try not to lose sight of what I am in need of this Lent.

I am aware of a radical need to be kind to myself, to allow myself to choose NOT to do everything. This pandemic has drained all of us of a fair amount of our energy, leaving us tired and frustrated without our routines and connections. I try to draw on the love I receive through the grace of God, and simply be me and to feel a spaciousness about how I will live out this Lent as fully as I can.

The pandemic has affected our sense of time, and what we do with it. Our pace of life has slowed down, while canceled activities have left open space actually not begging to be filled. As well, our expectations have been erased, as everybody is doing as little as we are! What this means for Lent is that I've got the space to choose nothing at all, to simply be still in God's presence as my whole life is a prayer. This allows for more space and freedom to just be me; I don't need to fill up time with Lenten programs and studies, just breathe and be thankful. God's "still, small voice" knows me better than I even know myself.

Finally, there is the reassurance of the Christian calendar's cycle: each year Lent comes and Lent goes, like no other and like every other Lent. Our Christian seasons take us through time, knowing God is with us in all and through all.

May this Lent be all you need it to be, even if it appears to be nothing at all. Thanks be to God.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
~ Ps 51.11-13*

Prayer for Tolerance *Pat Robson, A Celtic Liturgy*

*Grant us the grace to be sensitive
to the dreams and feelings of those around us,
and give to each one of us
the desire to work together
to build your kingdom here on earth
and so make this world a place
where humankind can live together
in the everlasting joy of your love. Amen.*



CC BY 2.0 by Tejvan Pettinger

Writing to God: 40 Days of Praying with My Pen by Rachel Hackenburg

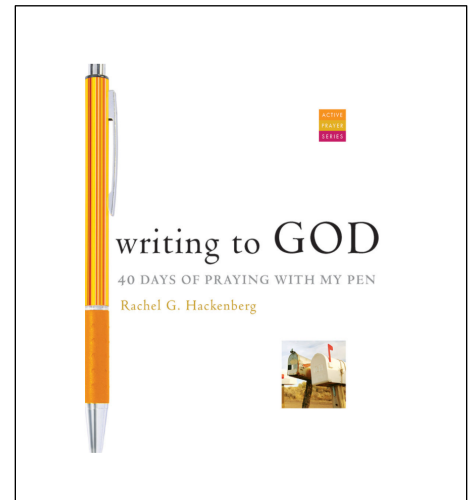
Reviewed by Laura Marie Piotrowicz

This prayer journal invites the reader to become the writer; Stepping from the familiarity of opening a book to find a prayer, to a whole-body experience of creativity, muscle use, and intentional breathing.

Rachel Hackenburg shares her journey to writing of prayers as a spiritual discipline, indicating this made her feel more connected to prayer and “more imaginatively connected to the mystery that is God.”

The book offers prayer prompts, for 40 days. These 40 days are not restricted to Lent, but should that timing fit with the reader/writer’s journey, there is a section for Holy Week. Hackenburg hopes to inspire a “freedom in forming the visual shape of prayer on paper,” in ways that are authentic and gentle, and can take place wherever – from the soccer field to the kitchen table to the dentist’s waiting room.

This guide encourages a different form of prayer for all, and is a delight to participate in.



Our AFP Finances

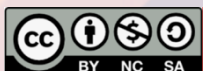
Our Executive has decided that we would not conduct a major fundraising effort this year. Our sense is people are very weary from covid, from being “shut-in” in so many ways, and from endless news stories that only heighten our anxiety and frustration. This past year (to say nothing of the year before) 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.

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

PO Box 43021, London, ON N6J 0A7

www.anglicanprayer.org

This work is licensed under
Creative Commons (CC-NC-SA 4.0)



newsletter@anglicanprayer.org

Next Newsletter: Jun 2022

Submission deadline: Jun 1, 2022