

## **Synod of the Diocese of Calgary, 2017**

### *Synodical Prayer Vigil*

As Christians, we are called to a vocation of prayer. As Christians practicing in the Anglican tradition of the faith, we are familiar with the exercise of that vocation through corporate prayer. This prayer vigil, organized in co-operation by local representatives of the Anglican Communion Alliance, Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, Anglican Renewal Ministries and Prayer Book Society of Canada, seeks to harness the wills of God's faithful people in this Diocese to pray for the needs of the Diocese and all those who are to participate in the Synod.

It would not be possible for every single person in the Diocese to participate directly in the Synod process itself, however by creating a systematic prayer vigil, it is an opportunity for faithful Christians in the Diocese who are unable to attend the Synod itself to contribute in an extremely meaningful way to the success of the Synod. Topics, along with suggested prayers, have been prepared for several issues. While you are requested to pray for these matters at a minimum, we hope that you will leave yourself open to the will of the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your prayers in whatever way he moves you.

There are prayer items provided for the month prior to Synod, during the Synod itself and then in the weeks following Synod. Each item for prayer is organized to include within it an extremely brief prayer bidding that some may find helpful in promoting spontaneous prayer. It is followed by a brief paragraph describing in greater depth the nature of the bidding, which may prove fruitful to meditate upon in the midst of prayer. Finally, a suggested sample prayer is provided. We are, after all, Prayer Book Christians, and as one of the themes of this endeavour is the promotion of our unity in Christ, suggested prayers offer an opportunity for all those joining in this vigil to pray with one heart, one mind and one voice.

In Christ,

Sheila Vanderputten, ACA  
Rev. Joan Schellenberger, AFP  
Rev. Can. Gene Packwood, ARM  
Matthew Perreault, PBSC  
September 2017

## **To be Prayed Before Synod**

*The following items are to be prayed over in the weeks leading up to the Diocesan Synod. Each item provides a description of who or what is to be prayed for, and example prayers have been provided to aid in beginning to pray over these matters.*

### **Diocesan Council**

*Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading as the Council makes plans for the Synod.*

The Council is responsible, under the leadership of Archbishop Greg, for organizing the agenda of the forthcoming Diocesan Synod. As such, we pray that their deliberations would be fruitful, and guided by the Holy Spirit so as to ensure that the forthcoming Synod's agenda addresses all matters which are necessary for the Godly flourishing of this Diocese.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant to our Diocesan Council all things needful for the spiritual welfare of this Diocese as they prepare for the Diocesan Synod. May their deliberations aid this Diocese to strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent. Remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and by their labours bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy Church, to the honour and glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for a Diocese  
Book of Common Prayer (43)*

Revive, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, the work of Thy saving grace in the Church universal, in our Anglican Church of Canada, in our diocese and Diocesan Council, in the parishes wherein we dwell and in our own hearts; to the conviction and conversion of forgetful souls, to the quickening of thy true disciples in life and witness, and to the glory of Thy Holy Name, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Adapted from prayer written by Handley Moule, Bishop of Durham  
pasted into every Prayer Book at the time of the Welsh Revival*

### **Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson**

*Pray for the Archbishop in the lead up to the Synod as he faces a significant workload preparing for Synod on top of all other responsibilities he holds.*

While the Diocese of Calgary holds to a form of Synodical Government, we are an episcopal polity, which means that ultimately all members of this Diocese are under the doctrinal and spiritual leadership of Archbishop Greg. This places significant strains and pressures on him, given the clear divisions that exist within this Diocese. As he prepares for

Synod, we uphold him in prayer particularly for strength to maintain his charge as guardian of doctrinal truth in this Diocese, and for refreshment as he maintains a busy schedule in the weeks prior to Synod.

ALMIGHTY God, giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers Orders of Ministers in thy Church: Mercifully behold thy servant Greg whom you have called to the work and ministry of a Bishop for this Diocese; and replenish him so with the truth of thy doctrine and power of thy Spirit, that both by word and deed he may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy Name, and the edifying and well-governing of this Diocese; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

*Adapted from the prayer for the Consecration of a Bishop  
Book of Common Prayer (662)*

### **Synod Delegates**

*Pray for Synod delegates that they would fruitfully prepare themselves for Synod to fulfil their responsibilities as delegates.*

Many delegates have been delegates for their parishes at several previous synods, while others are new. Most will prepare in some way for the Synod, at the very least familiarizing themselves with material distributed in the Circular prior to the Synod. We pray that all delegates would receive wisdom from God as they prepare so that they may contribute effectively to any discussions held at the Synod, and exercise Godly wisdom in all votes.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who by thy Holy Spirit didst preside in the Council of the blessed Apostles, and hast promised, through thy Son Jesus Christ, to be with thy Church to the end of the world: We beseech thee to be present with the delegates of the Synod of this Diocese about to be assembled in thy Name. Save its members from all error, ignorance, pride, and prejudice; and of thy great mercy vouchsafe so to direct, govern, and sanctify them in their preparations by thy Holy Spirit, that through thy blessing the Gospel of Christ may be faithfully preached and obeyed, the order and discipline of thy Church maintained, and the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour enlarged and extended. Grant this, we beseech thee, through the merits and mediation of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for a Diocesan Synod  
Book of Common Prayer (42)*

## **To be Prayed During Synod**

*The following items are to be prayed for regularly throughout the days of Synod (Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October and Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017). Each item provides a description of who are what is to be prayed for, and example prayers have been provided to aid in beginning to pray over these matters.*

### **Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson**

*Pray for Godly wisdom for the Archbishop as he leads the Diocese during the Synod.*

At the Synod itself, we pray in particular for Archbishop Greg's anointing as the chief pastor to the sheep of this Diocese to be recognizable to all in attendance. We pray that he would show forth Godly wisdom and the love that comes from Christ as he directs this Synod and Diocese.

ALMIGHTY God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy holy Apostles many excellent gifts, and didst charge them to feed thy flock: Give grace, we beseech thee, to thy servant Greg, the Pastor of this Diocese, that he may diligently preach thy Word, and duly administer the godly discipline thereof; and grant to the people, that they may obediently follow the same; that all may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Collect for the Consecration of a Bishop  
Book of Common Prayer (657)*

### **Officers of the Synod**

*Pray that the actions of the Officers of Synod would be seen to contribute to a climate of honesty, integrity and unity among all delegates.*

At recent Synods, thinking especially of our most recent General Synod, errors and omissions on the part of officers and staff of the Synod have hampered a spirit of unity, fractured already by the deep divisions that exist between delegates who are divided on certain issues. As we seek the unity that comes from God's truth, we pray that the actions of all officers of our Diocesan Synod, and any other persons acting to support the running of Synod, would be guided by the Holy Spirit so as to promote trust in the integrity of the Synod and contribute to the unity of the Diocese.

ALMIGHTY God, the giver of all good things, without whose help all labour is ineffectual, and without whose grace all wisdom is folly: Grant, we beseech Thee in all the undertakings of the Officers of Synod the help and guidance of thy Holy Spirit, that they may be enabled to promote thy glory, and the welfare of this Diocese and all your people in it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for a Convention  
Book of Occasional Offices (122)*

## **Clergy Delegates**

*Pray that their leadership would reflect the very best traditions of the Anglican faith.*

While canonically all delegates are equal, though voting in different orders, many lay delegates look for leadership from the clergy. In the same way that the Officers of Synod's intentions are sure to be good, our emphasis in prayer is not simply for intentions, but Godly wisdom as their actions are viewed by those who look to them for Godly leadership, in order to inspire faithful discipleship in all others around them.

ALMIGHTY God, who knowest the needs of thy Church in every place:  
Look graciously at this time upon the people of this Diocese; and give to them faithful Pastors, who shall feed thy flock according to thy will, and make ready a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer During the Vacancy of a Pastoral Charge  
Book of Common Prayer (45)*

## **Lay Delegates**

*Pray that all lay delegates would earnestly submit themselves to the will of God and his direction.*

Especially for a first-time delegate, Synod can be overwhelming and a time when, in the midst of the bustle of Synod, a delegate may struggle to be able to hear the still small voice of God leading them. We pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to guide delegates in all truth, and in the midst of potentially complicated Synod debates and policies, help them to see always that their votes are to point us towards God, his love, his will and his way.

DIRECT US, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour, and bestow upon our Lay Delegates at Synod thy blessing that by the guidance of thy Holy Spirit they may have right judgement in all of their deliberations, and be enabled to show forth their fellowship in Thee, through Christ our Lord. Amend.

*Adapted from the Prayer for a Convention  
Book of Occasional Offices (121)*

## **Synod**

*Pray that the Holy Spirit would guide this Synod in unity in the midst of disagreement in order that God's will be done.*

We recognize that the will of the Holy Spirit is discerned most clearly in the context of Christian unity. While disagreement is an expected part of synodical government, we pray that the Holy Spirit would guide the hearts of all delegates to establish unity in Christ to reign over the Synod, and for the fruits of the Spirit to be manifest in all discussions. Especially where divisions exist, we pray for examples of Christian charity.

GOD the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace: Give all Synod Delegates grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers they are in by their unhappy divisions. Take away all enmity and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder them from godly union and concord; that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for Unity of All Christian People  
Book of Common Prayer (40)*

## **Election of Delegates**

*Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to guide the election of delegates for future synods who will act in accordance with God's will.*

While every parish sends delegates to Diocesan Synod, the Provincial Synod, which incorporates representatives from every diocese in the Ecclesiastic Province of Rupert's Land, and General Synod, which has delegates from every diocese in Canada, have fewer delegates from the Diocese of Calgary. At this Diocesan Synod, delegates will be responsible for electing representatives of this Diocese, whose responsibility it will be to attend these upcoming synods. We pray that the Holy Spirit would guide and direct the election of delegates at Synod, such that the delegates who are elected will bring honour and glory to God as they represent the Diocese of Calgary in the future.

ALMIGHTY God, the fountain of all wisdom: Guide and direct, we humbly beseech thee, the minds of all those who are called at this time to elect fit persons to serve as delegates to Provincial Synod and General Synod. Grant that in the exercise of their choice they may be guided by the power of the Holy Spirit so to promote thy glory, and the welfare of this part of thy Church. And this we beg for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Adapted from the prayer before an election  
Book of Common Prayer (50)*

## Revival

*Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to use Synod as a powerful witness to revival in this Diocese.*

“Were not our hearts burning within us while [Jesus] was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” (St Lk 24. 32) We recognize that revival begins with prayer, and a gathering of the faithful in the context of prayer is an opportunity for revival to begin. We pray not just for revival for those in attendance at Synod, but that the power of the Holy Spirit would burn brightly throughout this Diocese, inspiring all to shine forth the light of Christ with revived passion and power.

GOD of our fathers, who by thy Spirit has builded up this Diocese within thy Holy Church, we give Thee humble thanks for all, whether known to us or unknown, who have wrought for Thee; we praise Thee for treasures of truth and love, for fruits of faith and work, through them bestowed on us; and we beseech Thee, at this Synod, so to revive in this Diocese thy Holy Spirit that we may steadfastly seek thy will for us and for our children, and both in life and worship may show forth thy truth and love, and magnify thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayers for a Diocesan Centenary  
Book of Occasional Offices (118)*

Revive, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, the work of Thy saving grace in the Church universal, in our Anglican Church of Canada, in our diocese, in the parishes wherein we dwell and in our own hearts; to the conviction and conversion of forgetful souls, to the quickening of thy true disciples in life and witness, and to the glory of Thy Holy Name, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Adapted from prayer written by Handley Moule, Bishop of Durham  
pasted into every Prayer Book at the time of the Welsh Revival*

## Diocese

*Pray that all of the needs of the Diocese would be fulfilled through the actions of Synod.*

The purpose of the Synod is to make decisions for the benefit of the Diocese. We therefore pray that the fruits of this Synod would provide for all the needs of the Diocese. These needs include not just important policy decisions being voted upon, but also in the smaller parts of Synod: reconnecting and renewing relationships between delegates, learning, worship and all other areas where delegates might feel the presence and power of the Holy Trinity at work.

GRANT, Almighty God, that through this Synod the purpose wherewith Thou didst call this Diocese into being may be fulfilled, and thy life continually renewed in our several parishes; that this Diocese might become more and more an example of thy power through the ministry of thy clergy, and of all thy faithful servants in this Diocese; may this Diocese be equipped to bring forth good fruit to thy glory, who ever livest and reignest, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for a Diocesan Centenary  
Book of Occasional Offices (118)*

### **Example of Synod**

*Pray for the witness of Synod to be a true witness of the Kingdom of God to the world.*

Synod as a gathering of the Diocese has an opportunity to be a Godly example of the work of God's Kingdom on earth. We therefore pray that God's will be done, and that it visibly be such an example, that all who see and hear of it would recognize the hand of God over this Diocese.

GUIDE, we beseech thee, Almighty God, by the light of thy Holy Spirit, the counsels of the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity at this time assembled in Diocesan Synod; that thy Church may dwell in peace, and fulfil all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*From the Prayer for Diocesan Synods  
Book of Common Prayer (43)*

## **To be Prayed After Synod**

*While there will be a sense of accomplishment once the Synod itself ends, the work of prayer is never complete. In the aftermath of the Synod, we pray for the continued work of the Holy Spirit guiding the Diocese to reflect upon the results of the Synod and the implementation of any decisions made there.*

### **Reconciliation**

*Pray that any disagreements that arise at Synod would be reconciled by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

While we pray for a spirit of unity at Synod, it remains possible that in the aftermath of the Synod, some divisions may remain. Where they exist, we pray for the Holy Spirit to bring his reconciling presence, to reconcile the faithful in this Diocese in the way that Christ himself reconciled us with the Father.

ETERNAL God, the Father of all mankind: We commit to Thee the needs of our diocese: where there is hatred, give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is distrust, faith; where there is sorrow, hope; where there is darkness, light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for the Healing of the World's Divisions and Sorrows  
Book of Occasional Offices (119)*

### **Wisdom and Discernment**

*Pray for wisdom to understand all that God does through this Synod.*

Prayers before and during the Synod focus on those involved in the Synod itself, and many include prayers for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. After the Synod ends, we pray for Wisdom for all the faithful of the Diocese to have the guidance of the Holy Spirit in understanding actions taken and decisions made at Synod.

O MOST Holy Spirit of God, from whom alone floweth the fullness of wisdom and life: Come in thine everlasting power and glory upon this Diocese and into the hearts of all thy faithful people; to bring to the Diocese a new birth of holiness, new understanding of thy eternal truth, and new unity in love; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the Father and Thee liveth and reigneth, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for the Healing of the World's Divisions and Sorrows  
Book of Occasional Offices (120)*

## **Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson**

*Pray for Archbishop Greg's continued work as our chief pastor.*

As the Synod is completed, Archbishop Greg's work will continue. We pray therefore for continued refreshment after the Synod as he executes the responsibilities of his office, faithfully guiding this Diocese in all truth of the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

O GOD, remember thy servant Greg, our Archbishop, that he may minister faithfully and wisely, and in all things may adorn the thy doctrine and truth; may he in his calling be renewed by thy Holy Spirit to serve thee truly and faithfully to thy eternal glory, and the well-governing of thy flock in this Diocese, remembering always the strict and solemn account which he must one day give before the judgement-seat of Christ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from the Bidding Prayer  
Book of Common Prayer (63)*