

# Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

*Serving, Supporting, and Encouraging Prayer*

Vol 29., No. 3

Autumn 2021



## Fall Reflections *Paul Feheley, National Director*

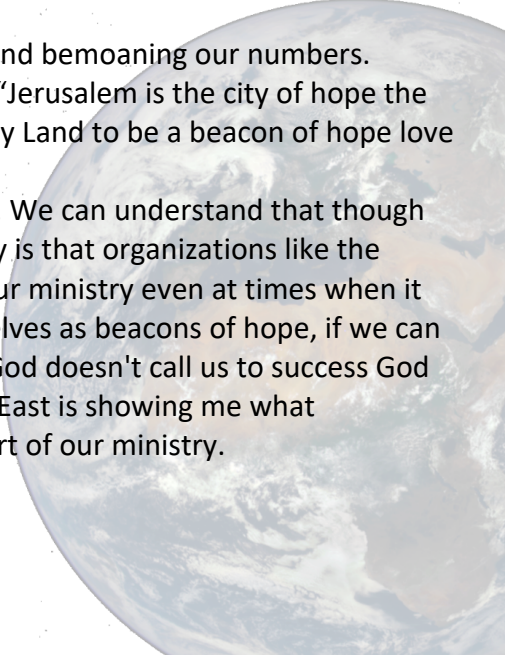
Last fall I shared with you the news that while continuing to be parish priest in Toronto that I had also become the interim partnership officer for Africa for The Episcopal Church in the United States. The ministry in Africa has taught me much about faith evangelism and the gift of prayer. The leadership of The Episcopal Church has now asked me to move to a new challenge in becoming the partnership officer for the Middle East which includes the Dioceses of Jerusalem, Cyprus and the Gulf and Iran.

The two positions are substantially different with Christians in high majority in Africa while in the Middle East they make up a small percentage of the population. One of the things I've quickly learned in the Middle East is the incredible importance of presence. In many parts of this often-troubled part of the world evangelism as you and I would know it is prohibited. What Christians can do is to have a significant presence will still being a minority-living out their faith as they walk in the footsteps of Jesus. While parishes tend to be small, they provide many schools, medical clinics, and hospitals for people of all faiths. With very little they accomplish much. It's a valuable lesson we all must learn in terms of our faith.

It's important for all of us to realize that in Canada we have become a minority. Far more people stay away from church than attend on any kind of regular basis. What then becomes our task as Christians? We could moan and complain that nobody comes and that churches are being challenged financially in substantial ways. Covid for the most part has only increased the difficulties that we face both numerically and financially.

I believe we are called to something more important than complaining and bemoaning our numbers. Archbishop Hosam, the new Archbishop of Jerusalem recently said that "Jerusalem is the city of hope the city of the resurrection and we are entrusted with the mission in the Holy Land to be a beacon of hope love and peace in the world."

Prayer is one of the gifts that we can bring into our communities. We can understand that though we are a minority there is still a vital role for us to play. My hope this day is that organizations like the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer can be there to help and inspire you to your ministry even at times when it seems almost fruitless, and nothing will be achieved. If we can see ourselves as beacons of hope, if we can share a sense of God's love, then we are fulfilling our call as Christians. God doesn't call us to success God calls us to be faithful. My early experience with Christians in the Middle East is showing me what faithfulness is all about. That is our challenge our call that sits in the heart of our ministry.



## Local Event: *Diocese of Huron*

### Help Us Grow: Praying to Foster New Relationship: *The Workshops*

Anglicans pray when we are sick or afraid. We pray when we come together in worship. Why don't we pray to GROW AS A CHURCH? In Part One of this conference, we began this conversation with the Rev'd Dr. Bowcott earlier this year.

Please save **Saturday, October 2, 2021** for **Help Us Grow: Praying to Foster New Relationships: *The Workshops*** to see what is next. These workshops are practical prayer practices with new keynotes being offered by Dr. Bowcott. Missed the first conference? Not a problem, a link can be provided for your listening pleasure. Come before? Why not bring some friends from your parish to participate and keep the discussion going where you live and minister.

Workshops offered are: Personal & Group Prayers, Listening to God, Intercessory Prayers, Family & Grounding Prayers, Prayer with Movement and Pastoral Care & Prayer.

The cost is \$10/person or \$30/congregation. To register please contact the Rev'd Kim Myer at [kimmyer@diohuron.org](mailto:kimmyer@diohuron.org) or by calling/texting 519-980-4545. Hoping to see you there.



*"Prayer is a surge of the heart,  
it is a simple look turned toward heaven,  
it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."  
- St. Therese of Lisieux*

## Autumn Months *(author unknown)*

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,  
may the earlier setting of the sun  
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves  
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air  
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance  
we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise  
that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.



## AFP Resources

While transitioning away from mailing out paper resources, we have a number of pamphlets still available that we would be pleased to make available to you at no charge. Please contact our Resource Coordinator, Paul Dumbrille, at [resources@anglicanprayer.org](mailto:resources@anglicanprayer.org) to make further inquiries about the paper resources that are still available.

To review all the electronic resources that we offer, a list can be found at: <http://anglicanprayer.org/index.php/resources/>.

Another project we have been working on with our Resources is to make them available to any who would like them on a thumb drive. This will allow those with spotty or no internet to have and print these resources from your own computer. If you would like to learn more about receiving one of these, again please be in touch with Paul Dumbrille at the email listed above.

*"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that. It is a spiritual transaction with the creator of Heaven and Earth."  
- Charles Spurgeon*

## Let Us Pray

We will continue this monthly hour of prayer, at 1pm Eastern Time. 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 Fall we are looking forward to hearing from:

- September 20 – Indigneous Prayer with Rosalyn Kantlah'tant Elm
- October 18 – Anglican Prayer Beads with Laura Marie Piotrowicz
- November 15 – Lectio Divina with Paul Dumbrille

The link noted below is the same for each of the three months. We will use the "Zoom" way of gathering people together. To join on computer, please click

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82001408803?pwd=WXRmWFJZSHRLcUJwYkdGUU1YvMmlxZz09>

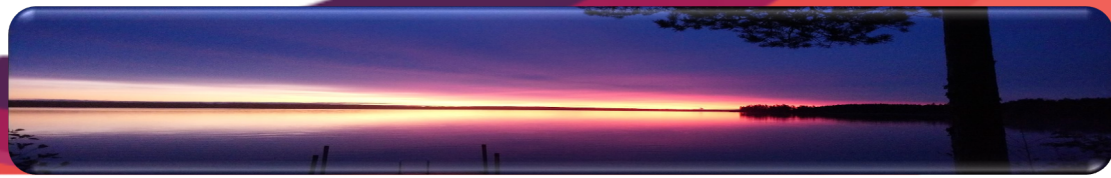
Meeting ID: 820 0140 8803 Passcode: 359803

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.



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## Prayer Matters *Paul Dumbrille*

### Being Still

The progression of the Pandemic over the past many months has had many effects on our daily lives, including our opportunities for worship and prayer. Despite my best efforts to get out of the house and be active, I have had to adapt to being inside much more than previously. I have watched more TV programs than normal, participated in many online sessions, streamed more movies than I ever imagined, and read books that I would not normally pick up. I have also found myself with more time to connect with God in prayer.

Many of us are much more comfortable praying in worship services, praying while moving, singing, and listening to sacred music, than heeding the words of Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God." Being "Still" is not something I have been particularly good at, but the Pandemic has led me to reflect on these words and practise "Stillness" more intentionally.

I recently learned from the writings of Fr. Richard Rohr of a simple way of being Still and intentionally connecting with the Divine Presence. It goes like this:

- 1) Find a quiet place, gently close your eyes and take a few deep breaths, slowly breathing in and breathing out. Prepare to pray the Psalm verse in five consecutively diminishing sentences.
- 2) Either aloud or quietly to yourself, say the words, "Be still and know that I am God."
- 3) Pause, and after taking several breaths, pray the words, "Be still and know that I am."
- 4) Pause, and after taking several breaths, pray "Be still and know."
- 5) Pause, and after taking several breaths, pray, "Be still."
- 6) Pause, and after taking several breaths pray, "Be."
- 7) Be quiet as long as you wish and when ready, pray, "Amen."

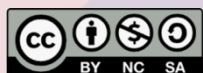
This way of prayer is not only useful for individual prayer but can also be used when praying with a group either in person or virtually online. The facilitator leads with each phrase and the group repeats aloud after each consecutively diminishing phrase. The pause between each phrase can be lengthened depending on your need or the needs of the group.

## Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

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Next Newsletter: Dec 2021

Submission deadline: Dec 1, 2021