



The Anglican Church of Canada

A Service of Evening Prayer

for

St. John the Evangelist

and

A Celebration of National Church
Ministries

Thursday, May 6, 2021

7pm Eastern Time

Chapel of the Holy Apostles, Church House, Toronto

Online at www.anglican.ca/cogs

Welcome

Welcome as Anglicans from across Canada and the world join in this service of Evening Prayer for the opening of the May meeting of the Council of General Synod.

This service is being held in the Chapel of Holy Apostles at the offices of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, Church House, in Toronto. This service is produced following COVID-19 workplace guidelines and protocols of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Rupert's Land.

Primary liturgical participants

Presider The Ven. Alan T. Perry
 General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada

Preacher The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
 Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

Music Ms. Rachel Cameron
 Music Director, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Readers The Rev. Canon Norm Wesley from Moose Factory, Ontario
 Co-chair, Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP)

 Ms. Clare Urquhart from Vancouver, British Columbia
 Member of the Council of General Synod

Intercessions The Rev. Louise Peters
 Chaplain to the Council of General Synod

Additional liturgical participants are noted within the Order of Service below.

Land acknowledgement

The Anglican Church of Canada recognizes the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples in Canada. We also we wish to acknowledge the land in which the General Synod operates. The office is situated on Indigenous land and the Dish with One Spoon territory—this is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We gratefully acknowledge these Indigenous nations for their guardianship of, and for our opportunity to work on, this land.

Gathering music How Can I Keep From Singing. Common Praise (CP) 401
Performed by Ms. Rachel Cameron.

Words of welcome

Words of welcome from the General Secretary to all assembled.

The Greeting

The General Secretary will respond on behalf of the people.

The General Secretary O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;

People **Hear my voice when I cry to you.**

The General Secretary Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,

People **The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Alleluia!

O Gracious Light

Phos Hilaron

Sung by Rachel Cameron and Doug Cameron.

All **O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Music: CP 751

Psalm

Psalm 145

The Rev. Cynthia Haines Turner leads the reading of Psalm 145:5-21 along with members of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Leader I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty
and all your marvellous works.

People **They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.**

Leader They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

People **O Lord, you are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

Leader You are loving to everyone
and your compassion is over all your works.

People **All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.**

Leader They make known the glory of your dominion
and speak of your power;

People **so that the peoples may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your dominion.**

Leader Your sovereignty is an everlasting one;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

Lord, you are faithful in all your words
and merciful in all your deeds.

People **You uphold all those who fall
and lift up those who are bowed down.**

Leader The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

People **You open wide your hand
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

Leader You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.

People **You are near to those who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.**

Leader You fulfil the desire of those who fear you,
you hear their cry and help them.

People **You preserve all those who love you,
but you destroy all the wicked.**

Leader My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord;
let all flesh bless your holy name for ever and ever.

All **Almighty God, give us grace to know you more and more, that
knowing we may love and loving we may praise, that the whole
world may hear your name and worship you, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. AMEN**

First Reading

Isaiah 44:1-8

*Read by The Rev. Canon Norm Wesley in the Moose Cree dialect of southern James Bay.
The General Secretary will respond on behalf of the people.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah

But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!
Thus says the Lord who made you,
who formed you in the womb and will help you:
Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,
and my blessing on your offspring.
They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,
like willows by flowing streams.
This one will say, "I am the Lord's,"
another will be called by the name of Jacob,
yet another will write on the hand, "The Lord's,"
and adopt the name of Israel.

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis). CP 266

Performed by Rachel Cameron and Doug Cameron.

Lord, let your servant go in peace;
your promises have been fulfilled;
your saving power has been displayed
before the face of all the world.
My eyes have seen salvation's dawn;
the Sun of life ascending bright;
your people's glory evermore,
the nations' everlasting light.

*Text: Luke 2:29-32; para. Paul Gibson,
Music: Song Common Praise 34 Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace*

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-12

Read by Ms. Clare Urquhart.

The General Secretary will respond on behalf of the people.

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given

concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls

Music

Breathe on me, Breath of God. CP 649

Performed by the Most Rev. Mark MacDonald.

Affirmation of Faith

All **Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions

Intercessions are led by the Rev. Louise Peters, Chaplain of the Council of General Synod.

Please join with representatives of National Church Ministries in the response to the bidding: Hear our prayer.

Leader As a community of believers who have affirmed our love of God and our love of neighbour, let us now offer to the Source of all Life our prayers for the World, the Church and for those in need.

The bidding for our intercessions is: *Giver of Eternal Life.*

And the response is: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader

Spoken in Spanish. English translation follows.

Fuente de todo, rezamos por el mundo y por toda la familia humana. Envía tu fuerza y tu paz a los lugares turbulentos donde hay guerra, conflicto y contienda. Recordamos especialmente el norte de África, Siria, Yemen, Afganistán, Irak, Libia y Myanmar. Rodea a los líderes políticos con la sabiduría y la voluntad de trabajar con justicia y rectitud para toda su gente. Equípanos para ser buenos amigos de nuestros camaradas que están en peligro, paralizados por economías destrozadas o devastados por desastres naturales. Ayúdanos mientras trabajamos juntos para encontrar formas de cambiar los sistemas y caminos que han causado desigualdad, , racismo, desplazamiento, codicia y guerra. Oramos por el mundo.

Dador de vida eterna:

People

Escuche nuestra oración.

Source of all, we pray for the world and the whole human family. Send your strength and peace to the troubled places where there is war, conflict and strife. We remember especially Northern Africa, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Myanmar. Surround political leaders with the wisdom and will to work justly and rightly for all their people. Equip us to be gracious friends to our partners who are in danger, crippled by shattered economies or devastated by natural disaster. Help us as we work together to find ways to change the systems and pathways that have caused inequity, racism, displacement, greed and war. We pray for the world.

Giver of Eternal Life:

People

Hear our prayer.

Leader

Creator of the Universe, we pray for the planet and all of creation. Continue to bless and heal all that is threatened, all that is fragile. Show us how to care more wisely for the home you have provided. We ask that your strength and wisdom be with those who work for climate justice and creation care. Teach us to turn from dominion to stewardship, from devastation to preservation, from wastefulness to attentive conservation.

Help us heal the planet. We pray for the Earth.

Giver of Eternal Life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Faithful God, we pray for your church. Bless all the newly baptized and those who in these isolation days await the living waters of baptism. Continue to help your faithful to be loving witnesses to the life you have given us in the risen Christ. Give us the strength to be your hope and love in a frightened world. We remember and pray for our national bishops, Linda, Mark and Susan. We pray for all bishops, clergy and believers. For those who are seeking faith, and those who have returned to faith. Bless all theologians, worship leaders and catechists. We pray for all Sunday School teachers and mentors of the faith. We pray for postulants and new ordinands, for prophets and poets and liturgists and those who teach and shape our faith. May we listen deeply for your Spirit to guide, uphold and show us your Way, that we as church may continue to love you, love your commandments and love others.

We pray for the church.

Giver of Eternal Life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Generous One, we pray for the mission of your church here on Earth. We pray for all initiatives and ministries of outreach, remembering especially the work done in your name through the Anglican Church of Canada. We pray, especially this day for the work of the national staff and committees of the Anglican Church of Canada. Bless their work and accomplish through them faithfulness and the revelation of your love. We pray for the work of the Council of the North, asking guidance and courage in our call to healing and reconciliation, justice and equity within your church and in our nation. Bless the Anglican Military Ordinariate, and we pray for Anglican Bishop Ordinary Nigel Shaw and all those who serve. Keep them safe. We pray O God, for the resources to do the work you have entrusted to our care, that your generous blessing will be revealed in the generosity of your believers. Bless the work of the Anglican Foundation and all who support and give to your church. Teach us to share what we have been given so that all may know the dignity, grace and joy you have given the world.

We pray for the mission of your church.

Giver of Eternal Life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Loving God, we hold before you all who are in need. We pray for the sick and the suffering, the lonely and the afraid. Be near all those who are in hospital and those who are ill at home. For all who are living with a new diagnosis of Covid, and those who are recovering. We pray for all those who are infected or affected, that you will be their healing and their strength. We ask your presence to be with all the people who are tirelessly giving of themselves and their skills during this global pandemic, praying: for all healthcare providers, vaccine coordinators and administrators; for teachers, political leaders and provincial medical officers; for those who continue to faithfully and courageously provide their service and work so that many may have safety and security during these isolated days. We ask your healing strength to be with those who are suffering in solitude, remembering especially: the addicted and those in recovery; the elderly; those who live in homes where there is violence; the displaced; and, any who are experiencing anxiety, depression, hopelessness. We pray for all refugees, prisoners and captives. For the hungry and the overfed. For all who are broken.

We name before you now, those who have asked us to pray for them...

Loving God, be with all who suffer, all who need.

Giver of Eternal Life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Eternal God, we pray for all who have died, giving thanks for the communion of saints. We thank you for the lives and love of those who now are dwelling with you in eternal light and peace. Thank you for the ancestors of our faith who continue to surround us with wisdom, witness and presence: who pray with us, and for us, when we have no words or feel we have lost our way. Thank you Holy One for the blessings of faith inherited from those who have gone before.

We name before you now and remember with full hearts those of your beloved who have died and who now rest in your peace and glory...

Gracious One bring healing and hope to all who mourn and show us how to support and care for them.

Giver of Eternal Life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Abundant Source of all Life, we offer our thanksgivings: for all the blessings of this life.; for the gifts of beauty and hope that we experience each day; for the faith and community that upholds and supports us; and, for the joy and surprise of laughter and interrupting grace that pulls us out of fear and shatters confinement. Open our hearts to your generous loving kindness, that we may rejoice in your abundant blessings and in turn be a blessing to your world. Free us to joy. Love us into thankfulness. Diminish our reluctance. Transform our fears, that we may find new and life sharing ways to witness to your love and resurrection.

In gratitude we name before you the blessings that we know...

Thank you, O God.

Giver of Eternal Life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Giver of Eternal Life, hear and answer the prayers that we have offered before you. Help us to become loving witnesses to your generous life given to us in the Risen Christ. Equip us by your Spirit to make our life a prayer: a continual revelation of our hope and life in You.

All this we pray, with saints and angels, and in your holy name.

Amen.

The Collect

The General Secretary Shed upon your Church, O Lord,
the brightness of your light,
that we being illumined by the teaching
of your apostle and evangelist John,
may walk in the light of your truth,
and come at last to the fullness of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer is recited by Anglicans from across Canada.
A list of all participants can be found at the end of the Order of Service.*

The General Secretary And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All **Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn

Day is Done, But Love Unfailing. CP 20

Sung by Rachel Cameron and Doug Cameron.

Day is done, but love unfailing dwells ever here;
Shadows fall, but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.
God our maker, none forsaking, take our hearts, of love's own making:
Watch our sleeping, guard our waking be always near.

Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night;
You are with us, ever lending new strength to sight.
One in love, your truth confessing, one in hope of heaven's blessing,
May we see, in love's possessing, love's endless light!

Eyes will close, but you unsleeping watch by our side;
Death may come, in love's safe keeping still we abide.
God of love, all evil quelling, sin forgiving, fear dispelling,
Stay with us, our hearts indwelling, this eventide.

*Text: James Quinn, SJ
Music: Welsh traditional*

Dismissal

The General Secretary will respond on behalf of the people.

The General Secretary Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Primal Blessing

Postlude

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing. CP 354

Performed by Rachel Cameron.

Additional liturgical participants

Intercessions

Ms. Claudia Alvarez Vega
Dr. Ryan Weston
Finn Keesmaat-Walsh
Ms. Fe Bautista
Mr. Brian Bukowski
Ms. Laurel Parson
Ms. Emily De Lucia Wood

Reading of the Lord's Prayer

Mr. Tony Hunter
The Ven. Lydia Constant
Canon Edmund Der
Mr. Sam Lord
Mr. John Bullivant
The Ven. Pierre Voyer

Production Team

The livestream was produced by the Communications and Information Resources department, General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

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| <i>Director of Communications</i> | Mr. Joe Vecsi |
| <i>Senior Producer</i> | Ms. Lisa Barry |
| <i>Production Manager</i> | Mr. Ben Davies |
| <i>Video Editor</i> | Ms. Becky Boucher Mr. Ben Davies |
| <i>Switching and camera</i> | Mr. Scott Brown |
| <i>Livestream</i> | Mr. Brian Bukowski |

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The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

webhelp@national.anglican.ca | www.anglican.ca