

On Monday, in the Anglican calendar, we celebrated the memory of a great and faithful servant of Christ, John Keble. In one of his poems in The Christian Year, one of the most important pieces of 19th century English literature, Keble wrote:

Heavy and dull this frame of limbs and heart,  
Whether slow creeping on cold earth, or, borne  
On lofty steed or loftier prow, we dart  
O'er wave or field: yet breezes laugh to scorn

Our puny speed, and birds, and clouds in heaven,  
And fish, living shafts that pierce the main,  
And stars that shoot through freezing air at even --  
Who but would follow, might he break his chain?

And thou shalt break it soon; the grovelling worm  
Shall find his wings, and soar as fast and free  
As his transfigured Lord with lightning form  
And snowy vest -- such grace He won for thee,

When from the grave He sprang at dawn of morn,  
And led through boundless air thy conquering road,  
Leaving a glorious track, where saints, new-born,  
Might fearless follow to their blest abode.

Tonight we come to the formal conclusion of our series on the Nicene Creed and the last article of our faith "We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen."

We are privileged to be led through this article by our own dear bishop, the Right Rev. Donald Harvey.

Born in a very different St. John's, NL from what it is today, Bp Don was baptized and confirmed in a parish church whose building was long ago torn down to expand the southside harbor of St. John's. He is now approaching 50 years of ordained ministry in a diocese that has changed a lot, too: from MUN and Queens, where Bp Don studied, to the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador in which he gave of himself faithfully in 6 different parishes, as well as as a University chaplain. The instructions of George Herbert in his great work, "A priest to the temple" seem to have been taken to heart by Bp Don, much as he himself saw them taken to heart by his beloved John Keble.

And, like Keble, Bp Don, too, is both a loyal son of Christ's holy Catholic Church and a lover of the greatness of the English language and its best exponents. In fact, thanks to his gracious wife, Trudy, to whom he has been married since the year after his ordination, Bishop Don was able to return to school in the late 80s and complete his MA on the sacred poetry and literary criticism of John Keble.

He would have continued to his PhD on Wordsworth and English Romanticism had he not received a higher calling to become bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, the office to which he was consecrated in 1993. Though his ministry was fruitful -- and was recognized by Huron College with an honorary doctorate -- alas, as we know, Bp Don's episcopacy in that Diocese occurred just as the Anglican Church across Canada began to experience what the great Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe summarized in the title of his great novel: "things fall apart".

Though the gradual departure of the Anglican Church of Canada from the faith once handed on to the saints led Bp Don to relinquish his licence with the Anglican Church, thanks be to God Bp Don returned as bishop to become the moderator of the Anglican Network in Canada. Bishop Don's courage and faithfulness in doing so have been honoured yet again with another honorary doctorate, this time from Nashotah House in the US. Today he continues to serve as our bishop and has also now been appointed Dean of the Anglican Church of North America. Bp Don, we have all seen in you and now know what it really means to be a bishop in the Church of God.

On this very date, March 31, 379 years ago, John Donne died. This is why in the Anglican calendar we remember John Donne today. Only days before his death, Donne preached his last sermon. It is entitled "Death's Duel". In that sermon Donne wrote:

"This death of incineration and dispersion [which is the disintegration of the buried body] is, to natural reason, the most irrevocable death of all; and yet *Domini Domini sunt exitus mortis*, "unto God the Lord belong the issues of death"; and by recompacting this dust into the same body, and remaining the same body with the same soul, he shall in a blessed and glorious resurrection give me such an issue from this death as shall never pass into any other death, but establish me into a life that shall last as long as the Lord of Life himself."

"We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

Bp Don.