

REPORT FROM THE LITURGY AND COMMON WORSHIP TASK FORCE

January A.D.2016

Very significant progress has been made toward a *Book of Common Prayer 2019*.

The creation of sub-committees on Calendar, Collects and Lectionaries, on Psalter and Music, on Episcopal Services, on Pastoral Services and on Offices of the Hours and Liturgies for Special Days has resulted in a greatly increased volume of work coming before the College. The present plan is to produce all the “working texts” of a new prayerbook by mid-2017, and then to use the following 18 to 24 months to finalize the texts of a *Book of Common Prayer 2019*, based on both website feedback and general experience.

The texts coming before the College for approval in January 2016 are the following:

The Holy Eucharist (Ancient Canon) – In response to the request of clergy and laity across the Church, conveyed through the College of Bishops, an English language eucharistic canon, based on Hippolytus, is being presented. This canon resembles those canons widely in use among the various denomination. In addition, an alternate form of the Prayers of the People, based on John Chrysostom, is offered in the complete form of this eucharistic rite.

Midday Prayer and Compline are also being presented. These minor offices are very similar in content to the forms in the *Book of Common Prayer 1979*, and consistent with the long tradition of these rites in the Western Church.

Family Prayer is offered to the Church with special concern for families with young children. There are four simplified offices for use in the morning, at noonday, in the evening and at bedtime. These offices allow families to draw on the patterns and content of Daily Morning and Evening Prayer, which are the rule of the mature Christian.

Collects of the Christian Year restore many of Cranmer’s collects to use in the Church. Collecting prayers are provided for every Season and Sunday of the Year, as well as for Red-Letter Holy Days and for optional observances within the Christian Year.

3-Year Eucharistic Lectionary is a revision of the Common Lectionary of 1979. This lectionary favors the long tradition of the Church for lessons connected typologically and thematically, particularly as regards the Old Testament Reading and the Gospel. The Bishop of a Diocese may authorize additional usages, such as the Revised Common Lectionary or preaching series on particular books or themes of the Bible.

Daily Office Lectionary restores the pattern – common among Anglicans from the time of the Reformation – of Old Testament and New Testament readings at both Morning and Evening Prayer. The purpose is to read through the Old Testament once each year, and through the New Testament twice. The pattern of psalm reading recommended is based on Cranmer’s 30-day psalm cycle, although allowing for reading the cycle over as much as two months.

Six Sample Psalms – Psalms 1,19,23,91,135 and 139 are presented by Psalter and Music. These psalms, produced by three Old Testament Scholars, are the result of the request of the College to produce a “contemporary Coverdale” with especial attention to the 1963 Church of England Psalter on which

T.S.Eliot and C.S.Lewis labored. Both the Liturgy Task Force and the Bishops Review Committee are recommending that the whole Psalter now be undertaken.

One draft is being submitted for discussion and direction:

Holy Matrimony (Prayers not Complete) – Initiated by the Pastoral Offices Sub-Committee and coordinated with the Task Force on Marriage, Family and the Single Life, the Liturgy Committee and Bishops Review Panel are sending forward this draft Marriage rite for discussion in, and direction from, the College.

Significant work has also been done on the Calendar of Red-Letter Days and Optional Commemorations. The Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force hopes to have a creative (win/win) proposal to bring to the College in June.

The Task Force also wishes to advise the College of tentative plans (by our friends at Anglican House) for the publication of a *Texts for Common Prayer (2.0)*. This publication would include all the working texts approved by the College through the January 2016 meeting. A short list of alterations proposed for the original texts appearing in *Texts for Common Prayer (1.0)* has also been prepared for consideration at the January 2016 meeting of the College.

Respectfully submitted,

+Robert Pittsburgh

The Most Revd Robert Duncan

Chair, Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force

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ABSTRACT:

The Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force is submitting an additional Eucharistic Canon, a Three-Year Eucharistic Lectionary, the Daily Office Lectionary, Collects for the Christian Year, Family Prayer, Midday Prayer, and Compline for approval by the College of Bishops for Church-wide use as working texts for worship. A draft of Holy Matrimony is also being presented for discussion and direction. Additionally, plans to produce a “contemporary Coverdale,” with special reference to the 1963 Church of England proposed Psalter (to which T.S.Eliot and C.S.Lewis were contributors) are reported and sample psalms submitted.