

REPORT TO THE COLLEGE

Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force

2 January A.D. 2017

The Liturgy Task Force is presenting most of the remaining texts for a proposed *Book of Common Prayer 2019* to the January meeting of the College of Bishops. These texts come as “working texts,” which, if approved, will be published for present liturgical use and for the gathering of on-line feedback towards the finalization of these texts by 2019.

The texts being presented are:

- The Rites of Healing:
 - Reconciliation of Penitents
 - Ministry to the Sick
 - Communion of the Sick
- Great Litany and Supplication
- Occasional Prayers and Thanksgivings
- Consecration and Dedication of a Place of Worship
- Ash Wednesday
- Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Great Vigil of Easter

Additionally, the (Proposed) Table of Contents, and the historic texts for the Athanasian Creed, Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, and Prefaces of the 1549 and 1662 *Books of Common Prayer* are being sent forward.

The only unfinished texts requiring Liturgy Task Force attention this spring are the Preface, Concerning the Worship of the Church [introductory rubrics], Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child, Ministry to the Dying, and Celebration of New Ministry.

Efforts to help the Church “receive” what the LTF and the College have done are multiplying rapidly. A *Presentation Booklet for Holy Matrimony* is in production. This was the insightful undertaking of the Marriage, Family and Single Life Task Force. A copy will be mailed to all the clergy of the Anglican Church by the end of January. The production of the Anglican Church Calendar for 2017, in cooperation with the Ashby Calendar Company of Erie Pennsylvania, has been wildly successful, selling-out within three days. (We will do better with estimates and advance orders next year.) Copyright permissions and licenses relating to the liturgies of special days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve, and to making available ESV leaflet inserts (from an on-line resource), are being pursued. Additionally, an easy-to-use on-line resource (www.legereme.com) for the Daily Office will soon be available by link from our www.anglicanchurch.net website. The *Texts for Common Prayer* tab on the Anglican Church website is also about to undergo reconstruction to make it easier to use

(now that so many working texts are available) and to emphasize the importance of feedback in the next twenty-four months.

One other very significant aspect of Prayer Book preparation is the Psalter Project. Three Old Testament Scholars – Erika Moore, John Crutchfield and Travis Bott – all passionate about the Book of Psalms, and all worshippers in Anglican Church communities – now share the vision, first articulated in the College, for a “Renewed Coverdale Psalter.” The hope is that such a Psalter – envisioned as a gift to the whole Anglican world – can be presented to the College in January of 2019. The Ven. Darrell Critch of St. John’s Newfoundland is chair of the Psalter and Music sub-committee of the LCWTF.

The Liturgy Task Force is ably served, in addition to Archdeacon Critch, by Bp. Keith Ackerman, Dr. Arnold Klukas, Can. Ronald Moock, Can. Andrea Mueller, and Fr. Jonathan Kanary. Dean Chip Edgar, who has been part of the TF work from its earliest days, has just stepped aside. (Immense thanks are due him.) Newly recruited members are two parish priests, Marcus Kaiser and David Pucik. Dr. Jim Packer, also a part of the LCWTF team from the beginning, and now “Senior Reader,” has agreed to a special role in the next phase of the TF work as feedback is incorporated and worship texts are finalized for the 2019 BCP.

The Feedback Phase of Liturgy Task Force work is now upon us. The first phase of task force work was the production of the theological lens. This work was undertaken under the leadership of Bp. Bill Thompson during 2009 and 2010. The second phase of the work stretched between 2011 and the present day. The third phase of the work is the incorporation of the Church’s feedback toward the production of finalized texts. Feedback has been gathered and catalogued as rites have been released and used. A renewed call to feedback will shortly be issued. The Liturgy Task Force shifts its labors now from the production of liturgical texts to their refinement.

Please pray for us, and please encourage all within your dioceses to employ the working texts, and to submit their recommendations for improvement (liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net), as we finalize a twenty-first century successor to the *Book* that is Anglicanism at prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

+Robert Pittsburgh

Archbishop Emeritus

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