

**REPORT OF THE LITURGY AND COMMON WORSHIP TASK FORCE**  
**Provincial Council**  
**June, A.D. 2018**

The Liturgy and Common Worship Task Force is, God willing, in the last months of preparation of the *Book of Common Prayer (2019)*. The process of finalizing all the rites, prayers, and supporting materials is projected to culminate at the meeting of the College of Bishops in January of 2019. The hope, then, is for approved texts to be printed in the spring, and for the *Book* to be offered to the Church at the Fifth Provincial Assembly of the Anglican Church in North America, meeting in June, 2019, at Plano, Texas.

Since the last report to Provincial Council (Wheaton, Illinois, June, 2018), the focus of the Liturgy Task Force has been on soliciting and incorporating church-wide feedback on the “working texts” widely in use across the Church. This work has been undertaken in phases, beginning with “finalized” rites for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and the Holy Eucharist (adopted and published by the College of Bishops in January of 2018), and continuing with final work on the Great Litany, Midday Prayer, Compline, Family Prayer, and Lent and Holy Week rites in April. Feedback and revision of Initiatory and Pastoral rites has an August deadline, with a similar deadline on feedback and revision of the Episcopal rites (including the Ordinal) and the Psalter in November.

Emails, social media posts, and website articles have been a regular feature of this season of the work, and feedback deadlines have been clearly delineated on the Texts for Common Prayer tab of the Provincial website. Hundreds of emails submitted to [liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net](mailto:liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net) continue to be received, evaluated and integrated into what is surely the most open and participatory process ever attempted in prayer book revision. Three webinars (in cooperation with Canon Dave Roseberry’s LeaderWorks) have also enriched the quality, clarity, faithfulness and beauty of what is emerging.

Two areas of our continuing work require special highlight.

The Daily Office Lectionary has been among the most challenging assignments undertaken by the Liturgy Task Force. With this meeting of Provincial Council we are publishing a third substantial revision. Our plea is for wide testing and regular use of this revision during the next six months. Voluminous feedback has been received. Against the Reformation principle of reading through the Scriptures once each year are set the realities of modern life and the time-limits of daily offices corporately offered. This latest iteration of the Daily Office Lectionary 1) can be employed for a one-year read-through or spread to a two-year cycle, 2) offers ways to read the Psalter in one, two or even more extended patterns, 3) balances sequential reading of the Scriptures with provision for limited acknowledgement of the church year, 4) will indicate the “core” of a lesson/chapter when shortening an Old Testament reading is necessary or desirable, and 5) includes readings from the Apocrypha (Article VI and BCP1662) but offers a sensible pattern of alternative readings.

(This latest draft of the lectionary does not have all of the “core-of-the-passage” sections indicated now, but two sample months (mid-June to mid-August) illustrate it. We will have a team working on (and publishing) the remainder of the “core-of-the-passage” entries during the next several months. Those who are requesting to shorten the lessons will appreciate this option, while those able can still read the full passages.)

The decision by the College of Bishops to encourage a Renewed Coverdale Psalter, with particular reference to a work of fifty years ago on which C.S. Lewis and T.S. Eliot (among others) labored, is bearing significant fruit. Three of our Church's Psalm scholars, in coordination with the Liturgy Task Force, are "rolling out" several "Renewed Coverdale" psalms every week. These are being published with Sunday Lectionary Inserts and are available on the Texts for Common Prayer tab of the provincial website. Comment on experience of these psalms is particularly sought over the next six months as the College of Bishops seeks to determine whether this will be the form of the Psalter in the *Book of Common Prayer 2019*.

Joyfully, several other matters can be reported:

- *Texts for Common Prayer II*, containing the Offices, Great Litany, Eucharistic rites, Initiatory and Pastoral Rites, Lectionaries and Calendars – a kind of "People's Prayer Book," lacking only the Psalter – is at the printer's. It will be type set according to the proposed "style" for the *Book of Common Prayer 2019*.
- Anglican House (Anglican Liturgy Press), in cooperation with Crossway Publishing, will have an *ESV with Apocrypha* pew Bible available this fall. Globally, Crossway will sell this as the *ESV Anglican Edition*.
- Sunday Lectionary inserts are being produced by Coffee Shop Creative (Colorado) and are available on line to congregations at no cost.
- Ashby Calendar Company has included an Anglican Edition Calendar (based on our Sunday, Holy Day and Commemoration Calendar) in its product catalogue for 2019, and are making these available for individual parish and diocesan imprint.
- The Getty Music Group – Fall Conference "Sing" in Nashville in September – has become very interested in the Renewed Coverdale Psalter and plans to include an Anglican Matins and a workshop on Anglican worship in this year's conference which is focusing principally on metrical Psalms. Conference attendance of 8000 is anticipated.

On behalf of a very hard working and extraordinarily gifted task force, and the three-score sub-committee members of translators, scholars, cooperators and practitioners, I thank you for your prayers, your feedback, and your support. Be assured that the results of this effort will form a generation of believers.: *lex orandi, lex credendi*.

Respectfully Submitted,

+Robert Pittsburgh

Archbishop Emeritus, Task Force Chair

ABSTRACT: All working texts of the 2019 Book of Common Prayer (excepting, but increasingly, the Psalter) are now available. The Task Force is well into its "feedback incorporation phase." Rites are being finalized according to the calendar and feedback deadlines published on the provincial website. Special attention to, and use of, a third revision of the Daily Office Lectionary is requested, as well as to the Psalter and to the Initiatory, Pastoral, and Episcopal rites still being finalized. Feedback to: [liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net](mailto:liturgytaskforce@anglicanchurch.net)