



Prayers of the People

Designation: Core Education for Layreaders



Objectives

On completion of this course you should be able to

- Know where to find litanies in our liturgical books
- Describe the core structure of prayers of the people
- Know where to find resources to help develop prayers of the people
- Understand how to adapt litanies to add original content or write original prayers
- Be able to cue congregational responses to prayers of the people

Ice breaker exercise

Video



Some Thoughts About Prayer

- We're not persuading God to act
- Our prayers do not give God new ideas
- We can pray about anything and leave the outcome to God.
- Jesus shows us God's love never fails; never be persuaded otherwise
- Prayer is a conversation with God. Responses are not simply yes or no
- All prayer is answered in the sense that God uses it in the best possible way
- Let go the ego; our boundless insight and wisdom is not the source. We are promised that the Spirit of God will pray in us



Thoughts About Public Prayer

- The way you pray is different
- You are leading God's people in prayer not praying on their behalf
- You need to speak clearly and in plain language
- Structure is important to connect with the people
- Silence can be very powerful
- Include current issues and concerns
- The corporate act of intercession is the sum of the individual thoughts and prayers, combined with the words and prayers spoken from the front.

PoP in Public Worship

- BAS
 - Baptism – Prayers for the Candidates (BAS p155)
 - Morning, Mid-day, and Evening Prayer
 - Night Prayer: An Order for Compline (Supplement)
 - Eucharist
- Occasional Celebrations
 - At the Ending of a Marriage
 - Commissioning for Lay Ministries
 - Blessing of a Family, of a Home, & Seeds at Planting
 - Blessing of Farm Animals, Fisheries, Forests, & Mines
 - Prayer for the Environment

Prayers of the People - history

- Included in the Eucharist from the earliest times
- After Pope Gregory (590-604) the priest's Eucharistic prayer included prayers for the living and dead
- The reformation saw liturgies with prayers between the Sermon and the Eucharistic prayer
- Liturgical revisions in the Church of England in the late 20th century added intercessions with four categories, later increased to six. The Canadian BAS has six categories

General Structure

- From the BAS
 - the Church
 - the Queen and all in authority
 - the world
 - the local community
 - those in need
- The litanies on pp 110-127 follow this structure

Resources

- Use resources as a source, an example, or a guide to help with intercessions
 - BCP pp 30-64, BAS pp 236-238, and BAS pp 110-129, 675-683, 691
 - *Leading Intercessions* by Raymond Chapman
 - *Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship* by Susan Sayers
 - The Vanderbilt Divinity Library Lectionary and Prayer Resources
<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>
 - Diocesan Prayer site: Let Us Pray
<http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/prayer/resources/>
 - Diocese of Springfield Prayers of the People
www.episcopalspringfield.org/prayers-of-the-people/
 - St Paul's Episcopal Church
<http://stpaulsfay.org/sunday-schedule/prayers-of-the-people/>



Suggestions for Leading Intercessions

- As you prepare
 - Pray
 - Read the scripture
 - Check liturgical themes
 - Find out about concerns
 - Intercessions are not meant to be read directly from a book; your circumstances and situations are unique

Suggestions for Leading Intercessions

- As you write
 - Avoid opinions or expressing judgment
 - Distinguish between biddings and prayers
 - We pray to God the Father, through God the Son, and by or in God the Holy Spirit.
 - “We pray *for*...”, is better than, “We pray *that*...”
 - Be specific without too much detail
 - About a page typed

Suggestions for Leading Intercessions

- As you read
 - Include supplementary information in the practice of your local church
 - Take advantage of silence
 - Responses are good, but need to be short and memorable. People need to be cued to respond
 - Clarity and projection are important
 - Be reverent and confident.



Break



Practical Assignment

- In a small group or alone
 - Choose either Easter 3 or Trinity Sunday for Year A and develop Prayers of the People that work for you and your parish context using the resources available
 - Bible, BAS, BCP, handouts
- An opportunity to share prayers and feedback

Options

- The approach you select will depend on many factors
 - Use a BAS litany
 - Use a BAS litany and modify to include specific prayers of concern
 - Modify a BAS litany with an opening and concluding prayer and specific concerns from the Vanderbilt Divinity Library prayer resources.
 - Modify a BAS litany with prayers from *Leading Intercessions* (as a resource for intercessions linked to the Scripture readings) and prayers of specific concerns
 - Use *Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship* and modify with specific concerns
- Develop and practice options that work for you



Sharing Time

Concluding Thoughts

- What to do
 - Take a moment to pray before you start
 - Be yourself
 - Be unafraid of silence. You are leading, not reading. Silence is important and connects private and corporate prayer
 - Use the resources available to help craft intercessions
- What not to do
 - Do not break confidences; respect privacy
 - Intercessions can be thematically linked to the Gospel of the day, but there is only one Sermon
 - Don't be afraid of simplicity, sometimes that is what God wants people to hear



Pause & Consider

- What was your key learning
- How could we make this course better



Printed Resources

- *Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada.* Anglican Book Centre: Toronto, 1985.
- *Book of Common Prayer.* Anglican Book Centre: Toronto, 1962.
- Chapman, Raymond. *Leading Intercessions* Enlarged Edition. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2006.
- Gibson, Paul. *Make Preparation: Liturgy Planning Notes.* Anglican Book Centre: Toronto, 2009.

Printed Resources

- “Handbook for Readers and Intercessors,” Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, Booklet P/G32 (revised Feb 2004)
anglicanprayer.org/resources/PG-32_Readers_and_Intercessors_Handbook.pdf
- Pritchard, John. *Leading Intercessions; creative ideas for public and private prayer*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2004.
- Sayers, Susan. *Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship*. Kevin Mayhew Ltd: 1999.

Website Resources

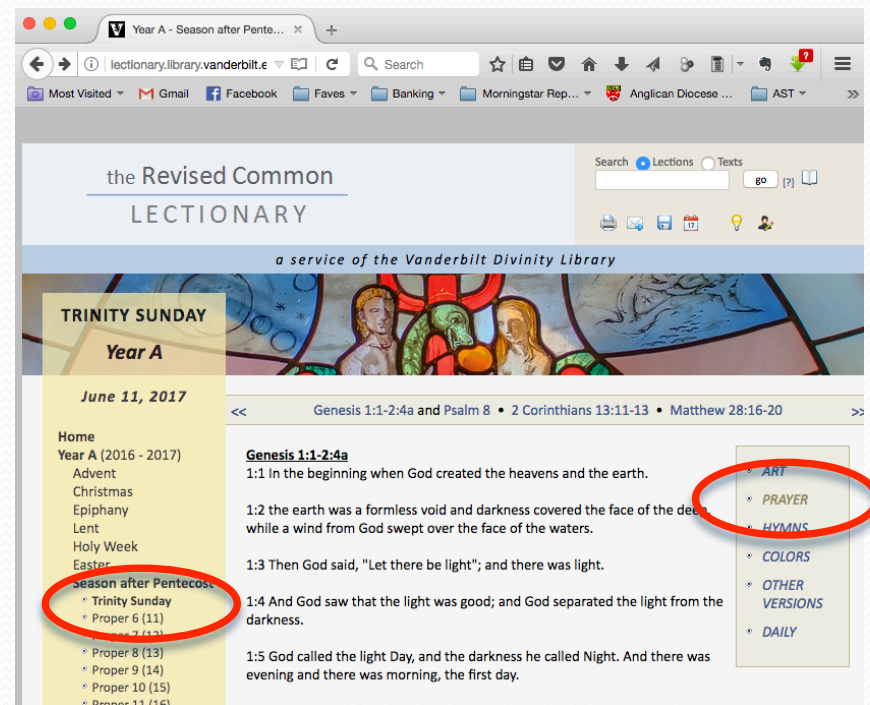
- St Paul's Episcopal Church
 - <http://stpaulsfay.org/sunday-schedule/prayers-of-the-people/>
- www.textweek.com
 - Various resources for liturgical planning organized by Sunday

Website Resources

- *Vanderbilt Divinity Library*

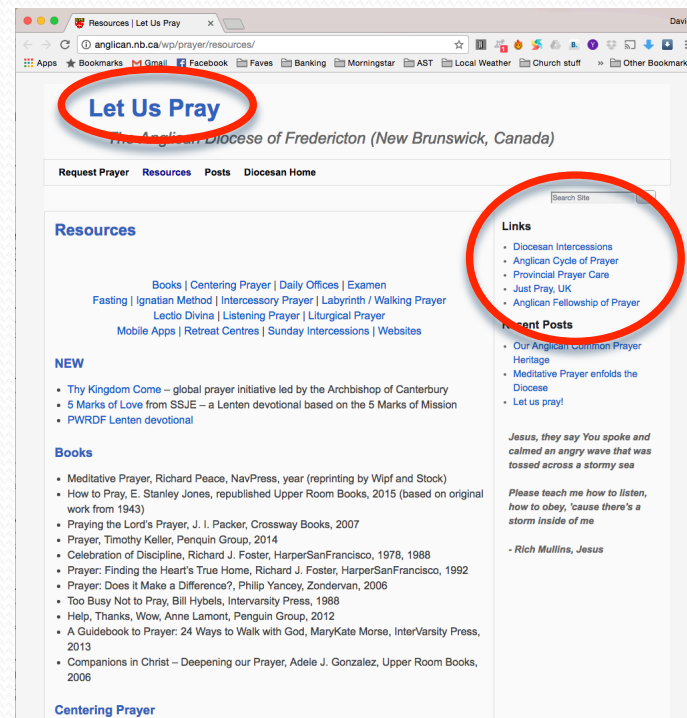
<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

- Select the Sunday from the left window
- Select Prayer from the right window



Website Resources

- *Diocese of Fredericton*
 - *Let Us Pray*
<http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/prayer/resources/>
 - Diocesan Intercessions
 - Anglican Cycle of Prayer
 - Provincial Prayer Care



Website Resources

- *Diocese of Springfield*
 - *Prayers of the People*
www.episcopalspringfield.org/prayers-of-the-people/
 - Select the liturgical year and Sunday

Prayers of the People - Diocese of Springfield | Let Us Pray

www.episcopalspringfield.org/prayers-of-the-people/

ABOUT US MINISTRIES DAILY LIFE CALENDARS BISHOP'S CORNER CONNECT WITH US

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

According to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer (1979), there is a great deal of flexibility with respect to the Prayers of the People. The single set form in Rite I and the six Forms in Rite II are available, but celebrants and liturgy planners are not limited to them. The only requirement is that the categories enumerated on page 359 are covered.

The links below are to alternative forms of the Prayers of the People that are keyed to the seasons and the lectionary readings of the liturgical year. They are adapted by Bishop Daniel from forms developed by Ormonde Plater, a deacon of the Diocese of Louisiana. In each instance, the Celebrant offers and introductory bidding, and the Deacon or other person appointed leads the prayers. In most circumstances, it would be appropriate for there to be some period of silence after each petition, before the leader continues with "Lord, hear us." The celebrant reads the concluding collect.

In place of "Lord, hear us ... Lord, graciously hear us" (adapted from Church of England materials), the more familiar language from Form IV may be used, if desired ("Lord, in your mercy ... Hear our prayer").

There is no form given for the First Sunday of Advent and the First Sunday in Lent, since it is customary to begin the service with the Great Litany on those occasions, and omit the Prayers of the People.

As long as all rubrics are observed, these forms may be adapted by, or in consultation with, the Celebrant.

Year A

Advent I	Advent II	Advent III	Advent IV	ABC: Christmas	Xmas I	Xmas II	ABC: Epiphany	Epiphany I
Epiphany II	Epiphany III	Epiphany IV	Epiphany V	Epiphany VI	Epiphany VII	Epiphany VIII	Epiphany Last	
Lent II	Lent III	Lent IV	Lent V	Palm Sunday	Easter II	Easter III	Easter IV	Easter V
Easter VI	Pentecost	Proper 07	Proper 08	Proper 09	Proper 10	Proper 11	Proper 12	Proper 13