



Anglican Network  
in Canada

# FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

## MEDITATION & CALENDAR

December 2017

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
I Thessalonians 5: 16-18 ESV

### First Friday - December 1

We urge you to set aside the first Friday, December 1st, as a day to pray and fast for our diocese (ANiC), the Anglican Church of North America, and the Anglican Communion worldwide. We live in an age of immense pressure against the Gospel. It is critical that we unite together in prayer.

### Notable Prayer Quotes

"We should go into His presence as a child goes to his father. We do it with reverence and godly fear, of course, but we should go with a childlike confidence and simplicity."

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899 - 1981)

## 3 Ways to Pray for Children This Christmas

**Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14 ESV**

The small TV studio is a buzz of activity as they near the end of their Christmas Eve 11:00 PM newscast. They've already covered a shooting in a mall, the threat of war in the Middle East, and a sordid scandal involving a well-known politician. The weatherman has not helped raise their viewers' spirits as he forecasts a grey, rainy Christmas Day.

But the last item of the evening involves a touching scene of some underprivileged children receiving some beautifully wrapped gifts from a well-known social agency. The absolute delight on the kids' faces

is captivating as a very plump Santa empties his bag of toys. And as the instrumental strains of "Frosty the Snowman" fade away, the news anchor poignantly says, "And that's what Christmas is all about. Kids are the true meaning of Christmas!"

But we know that this is just a worldly point of view, don't we. The true meaning of Christmas is vastly superior to merely joyous smiles on children's faces, however endearing. It is about the Almighty God, creator of the entire universe and every individual's life, inserting Himself into human history in the form of a vulnerable, newborn child and bringing the Gift of all gifts - forgiveness and complete reconciliation with God - salvation in its fullest!

Virtually all children love Christmas; its excitement, anticipation, family traditions like decorating the tree, and the exquisite smells that emerge from the kitchen for at least a week in advance. Whether we have children, grandchildren or simply are aware of

## the Gift of all gifts – forgiveness and complete recon- ciliation

the kids at our church or in our neighbourhood, I believe that the Lord has called us to pray for them, even (or, perhaps, especially) at Christmas. Let me share just a few important ways that we can pray for them.

1. Pray that Jesus will be at the very centre of their Christmas celebration. Public schools, the media, and even their neighbourhood friends will tell them repeatedly another narrative. Pray for their parents that they will be able to demonstrate to their sons and daughters by their own example the centrality of Christ in all that they do this season.

2. Pray that the Lord will help children deal with the potential confusion over what's real and what's just pretend at Christmas time. Santa, elves, talking reindeer and snowmen, and a baby lying in a manger thousands of years ago can all be mere fantasy unless there is someone to guide them into understanding the truth. Pray that they will realize that the love of Jesus for each of them personally is demonstrated both in the manger scene and ultimately on Calvary.

3. At the risk of offending some readers, I am compelled to point out the anti-Gospel message of the Santa Claus narrative as our culture presents it. It's all about being good girls and boys or else. In

fact, it bribes kids to be good. "Better not cry, better not pout. Santa Claus is coming to town and he's gonna find out who's been naughty and nice. He knows if you've been bad or good so be good for goodness sake!"

The obvious implication of this song is that if you've been naughty, there are no toys for you! You get what you deserve, it's too late to change, and that's not the Gospel of Grace. Using fear of punishment and guilt over our poor track record as a means of producing obedience and good behavior haunts most adults, even many Christian adults, but it just doesn't work. The experience of Israel in the Old Testament certainly proved that. The law shows us our sin, but it doesn't and cannot deliver us from it. Only a sinless Messiah could do that!

## there is complete for- giveness, acceptance and approval

So, how then should we pray for our children? Pray that they may see that, for those who are in Christ, there is complete forgiveness, acceptance and approval, not based on what we do but based totally on the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. Pray that their parents and Sunday School teachers will illuminate for them the joy and freedom of a transforming relationship with the Father who delights in His kids, however old. Pray that their love for Him will grow deeper and deeper as they mature in Christ. Amen!

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## Collect for Christmas

O GOD, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.

**May God's rich blessings be with you and your family  
as you celebrate the wondrous birth of our Saviour this Christmas!**

# Prayer Calendar | December 2017

Praise items and prayer requests coming from within ANiC, ACNA and the Anglican Communion for each day of this month.

- 1. Our province and primate** – Pray for Archbishop Foley Beach (& Allison). May God glorify Himself through the ACNA and give us a passion for sharing the Gospel.
- 2. Our diocese** – Pray for the Anglican Network in Canada and our congregations. Pray for revival in our churches. We desperately need the Lord.
- Pray for **Bishop Charlie Masters (& Judy)** as he leads ANiC. May God grant him the health, strength, discernment and the passion he needs for this heavy responsibility.
- Pray for ANiC's suffragan bishops: **Bishops Stephen Leung (& Nona) and Trevor Walters (& Dede)**. Pray for wisdom and vision as they care for clergy and churches.
- Bishop Don Harvey (& Trudy)** – Pray for Bishop Don in his roles as ANiC's episcopal vicar and as senior chaplain to the ACNA College of Bishops.
- Pray for **Bishop Ron Ferris (and Jan)** as he embraces his important new role as Assisting Bishop for Missionary Planning. Bishop Ron will seek to integrate new ministry possibilities and partnerships for our future. He will also “develop policy options and consult widely in order to assist the Bishops and ANiC Council in clarifying and moving ahead on key priorities.”
- Pray for our retired bishop, **Bishop Malcolm Harding (& Marylou)**. Thank God for their fruitful ministries.
- Pray for the new **Missionary Bishop Andy Lines (& Mandy)**, who was consecrated at the ACNA Assembly on the 30th June. Given the disappointing decisions by the Church of England general synod and the Scottish Episcopal Church, and a recent statement from the Primates Meeting in Canterbury, his ministry to orthodox evangelicals will be very important.
- ANiC archdeacons, canons & all clergy** – Pray for spiritual and physical protection and renewal as well as for God's blessing on them, their spouses & families.
- ANiC council, chancellor & registrar** – Pray for wisdom and servant hearts as they serve ANiC. May they know God's leading, seek His will, and experience His joy.
- ANiC staff & volunteers** – Pray for strength for the tasks, faithfulness in service, & joy in the Lord. May God's blessing rest on ANiC as we seek to know, love & serve Him.
- Asian & Multicultural Ministries in Canada (AMMIC)** – May God bless this ministry as it reaches ethnic communities & new immigrants with the Gospel & plants churches
- ANiC's 5 Ministry Priorities** – Pray that God will use these to transform us and our churches: Bold witnesses; Biblically grounded; Loving children; On mission; and Planting churches.
- ANiC's New England congregations**  
Holy Trinity (Marlborough, MA)  
St Brigid of Kildare (Medway, MA)  
Holy Trinity (Attleboro, MA)  
All Saints' (Rutland, VT)  
Emmanuel - Chinese (Boston, MA)
- ANiC congregations in Newfoundland & the Atlantic Provinces**  
St Stephen the Martyr (St John's, NL)  
Resurrection (Halifax, NS)  
Good Samaritan (St John's, NL)  
Christ the King (Quispamsis, NB)
- ANiC congregations in Quebec**  
St Timothy's (Montreal area)  
St James (Lennoxville)  
Emmaus (Westmount, Montreal)
- ANiC congregations in the Ottawa, Ontario area**  
Faith (Embrun)  
St Luke's (Pembroke)  
Messiah (Ottawa)  
Blackburn Hamlet Community (Ottawa)  
St Peter & St Paul's (Ottawa)  
Grace (Mississippi Mills)  
Eternal Hope (Carleton Place)

**18. ANiC congregations in Ontario**

St Aidan's (Windsor)  
St Aidan's at River's Bend (Belle River)  
Cornerstone Anglican Church (Sarnia)  
New Life (Sturgeon Falls)  
The Way (Wasaga Beach)  
The Gate (Sault Ste Marie)

**19. ANiC congregations in Ontario**

St Hilda's (Oakville)  
St Peter by the Park (Hamilton)  
St George's (Burlington)  
Epiphany (Hamilton)  
Good Shepherd (St Catharines)  
St Jude (Guelph)

**20. ANiC congregations in Greater Toronto and eastern Ontario**

St Chad's (Toronto)  
Celebration Church (Barrie)  
Christ The King (Toronto)  
New Song (Port Perry)  
Bethel South Asian (Brampton)  
Living Waters (Kingston)  
St James Fellowship (Trenton)

**21. ANiC congregations in Saskatchewan & Manitoba**

Resurrection (Brandon, MB)  
St Bede's (Kinosota, MB)  
Redeemer (Dauphin, MB)  
Cornerstone (Regina, SK)

**22. ANiC congregations in Alberta**

Holy Trinity - Filipino (Edmonton)  
Grace Anglican (Calgary)  
Christ the King (Edmonton)  
Good Shepherd - Cantonese (Calgary)  
Living Water (Athabasca)

**23. ANiC congregations in the Fraser Valley & Interior of BC**

Ascension (Langley)  
Resurrection (Kelowna)  
Saint Matthew's (Abbotsford)  
Christ Church (Kelowna)  
Church of the Holy Cross (Abbotsford)  
South Okanagan Project (Oliver)

**24. ANiC congregations in the Vancouver, BC area**

St John's Vancouver  
Sojourn Church (UBC, Vancouver)  
St John's Richmond  
Immanuel Church (Vancouver)  
St Peter's Fireside (Vancouver)  
St Andrews (Delta)

**25. Christmas Day** – Pray that the joy of the birth of the Christ-child may refresh each member of every ANiC parish and be shed abroad as we share this blessing with everyone we encounter today! Pray for all who are alone today or who are serving our nations in the military overseas.

**26. ANiC congregations in the Vancouver, BC area**

St Matthias and St Luke (Vancouver)  
Good Shepherd Richmond – Chinese  
All Nations – Japanese  
St John's – Sudanese (Surrey)  
Good Shepherd Vancouver – Chinese  
St Timothy's (North Vancouver)

**27. ANiC congregations on Vancouver Island & Sunshine Coast**

Open Gate Church (Victoria)  
Living Edge (Victoria)  
Church of Our Lord (Victoria)  
Christ's Church (Oceanside)  
The Table (Victoria, Saanich Peninsula)  
Christ the Redeemer (Pender Harbour)

**28. Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans –**

Pray that repentance, revival and renewal will spread throughout the Communion. Pray especially for the dedicated Primates leading this global fellowship of orthodox Anglicans determined to remain faithful to God's Word.

29. Pray for **the millions of refugees and internally displaced people worldwide**. Pray for persecuted Christians, especially in Muslim, communist and war-torn lands.

30. Pray for **those in authority over us, especially elected officials**. We pray particularly with our brothers and sisters in New England for God's intervention in the escalating polarization and violence within the United States.

31. Pray for **a fresh outpouring of repentance and revival upon our nations and our world!** "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!" Isaiah 64:1-2 ESV