



FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

MEDITATION & CALENDAR

January 2018

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. *1 Peter 4:7 ESV*

First Friday - January 5

We urge you to set aside the first Friday, January 5th, 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

“The second coming of Christ will be so revolutionary that it will change every aspect of life on this planet. Christ will reign in righteousness. Disease will be arrested. War will be abolished. Nature will be changed. Man will live as it was originally intended he should live.” – *Billy Graham*

We Pray, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

Recently, I came across a thought-provoking blog post that was comparing the content of today’s most popular worship song lyrics with those of the “Gospel” era. Although music styles have changed dramatically over the decades, the most notable difference in content, the author observed, was that in today’s worship music there are significantly fewer references to the return of Christ.

Last week, I had the privilege of being at a gathering where Bishop Charlie Masters was sharing from 2 Peter 3, giving particular emphasis to the passage concerning the Lord’s second coming. These verses really impacted me:

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wish-

ing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God...” 2 Peter 3:9–12 ESV

Bishop Charlie commented that the early church was much more focused on the return of Jesus than is our typical 21st century Christianity. There was a tangible air of expectancy, especially perhaps for those like Peter and John who were actual eyewitnesses to Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascen-

sion. They had seen his glorious departure and had absolutely no reason to doubt that He would return in similar manner.

We've just come through the Advent season, and I found myself asking, "Did I even once pray about the Lord's second Advent?" Did it even occur to me that, according to Peter, we might hasten or speed up that glorious event? Now it's certainly not my intent to discuss the various positions on eschatology or on how God has established "that day", but what does seem clear is that one of the reasons that Peter

was exhorting the churches in his letter to pursue "holiness and godliness" was as a means of hastening the return.

One scholar put it this way: "We are causing the

day to come more quickly today when we fulfill the conditions without which the day of the Lord will not come." Jesus Himself made it quite clear that there are conditions on His return when He said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14).

So when we pray for repentance, revival and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world, we are hastening His coming. Every time we pray with faith and conviction, "Thy Kingdom come", we are praying expectantly for Jesus' return to establish His kingdom in its fullness. When we respond to the Lord's exhortation to "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Matt 9:38), we are praying for the fulfillment in part of the conditions that must be completed before He returns.

What about at the personal level? What does Peter mean by "lives of holiness and godliness"? I'm sure it involves a deep gratitude for the transforming work of the Gospel and embracing the work of the Holy Spirit in us to make us more and more like Jesus. It may also involve having a greater attitude of expectancy concerning His return. After telling the parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus exhorted His

hearers to, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matt 25:13). Paul writes to the Thessalonian church, "For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (1 Thess. 5:2). We want to be ready. We want to be expectant. This is not a dutiful burden; it is a joy, a delight! His return will be more spectacular and glorious than we are able to even come close to imagining!

we are praying expectantly for Jesus' return

So, as we begin a new year, often a time of reflection on what has recently

past and on what the future may hold, would you join me in resolving to pray more fervently concerning the Lord's return? Let our prayers include these thoughts and more:

1. Pray that "this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world" and the Holy Spirit would direct His church in the most effective means possible to achieve this goal.
2. "Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest". Pray that the Bold Witnesses priority, one of Bishop Charlie's five ministry priorities, would find deep root in the heart of each ANiC member, and that each of us would become, more and more, a courageous witness of the truth of the Gospel to all who are within our sphere of influence.
3. Every time we pray "Thy Kingdom come", may we pause to reflect on the totality of what we are asking for – the return of Christ Jesus to establish His eternal reign and the manifestation of new heavens and a new earth!
4. Let us daily pray the prayer with which the apostle John concludes the Book of Revelation: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

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Prayer Calendar | January 2018

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

- 1. Our diocese** – As we begin a new year, pray for the Anglican Network in Canada and all our parishes across Canada and in New England. Pray for revival in our churches. We desperately need the Lord.
- 2. 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.
- 3.** 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.
- 4.** Pray for ANiC's suffragan bishops: **Bishops Stephen Leung (& Nona) and Trevor Walters (& Dede)**. Pray for health, wisdom and vision as they care for clergy and churches.
- 5. 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.
- 6.** 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.
- 7.** Pray for our retired bishop, **Bishop Malcolm Harding (& Marylou)**. Thank God for their fruitful ministries.
- 8.** Pray for the new **Missionary Bishop Andy Lines (& Mandy)**, who was consecrated at the ACNA Assembly on the 30th June, 2017. Given the spiritual drift from orthodoxy of the Church of England and the Scottish Episcopal Church, his ministry to orthodox evangelicals will be vital.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. Asian & Multicultural Ministries in Canada (AMMiC)** – May God bless this ministry as it reaches ethnic communities & new immigrants with the Gospel, and plants new churches.
- 13. ANiC's 5 Ministry Priorities** – Pray that God will use these to transform us and our parishes: Bold witnesses; Biblically grounded; Loving children; On mission; and Planting churches.
- 14. 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)
- 15. 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)
- 16. ANiC congregations in Quebec**
St Timothy's (Montreal area)
St James (Lennoxville)
Emmaus (Westmount, Montreal)
- 17. 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. 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)

26. 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)

27. 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.

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

29. 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.

30. For the **Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (ARDFC)** as it is partnering with the Anglican Diocese of Cameroon to provide a **full service healthcare clinic** in the city of Douala. It will offer inexpensive, quality care to people who do not have access to, or who cannot afford, health care and medications.

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
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