



# FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

## MEDITATION & CALENDAR

April 2018

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.  
Romans 12:12 ESV*

### First Friday - April 6

We urge you to set aside the first Friday of each month 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

“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”

– Max Lucado

## Making Weak Prayers Soar and Sing

**I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.** (John 14:16-17a ESV)

**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**

(Romans 8:26–27 ESV)

**H**owever experienced we may be at praying, there are probably days when we struggle with both motivation and content in our prayers. For me, even after all these years, sometimes “fervent prayer” does not come easily, and, at other times, I can feel as if my words are inadequate and merely bouncing off the ceiling of my study. Concentration wanders, distractions seem alluring, and attempts at fervency can feel almost artificial.

All this, by the way, is part of the enemy's strategy to discourage us from praying because he knows how potentially detrimental to his plans the prayers of Christians can be. Samuel Chadwick, a well-known Wesleyan Methodist minister in the UK during the early part of the 20th century, once declared, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray."

## Never Left To Our Own Devices

Friends, one great aspect of the Gospel is that God has never left us to our own devices, our own

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efforts. He didn't save us from our sins and then say, "Okay, now try harder next time!" No, even before Jesus was arrested and crucified he told his disciples, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper to be with you forever!" in fact, Jesus told them that it was beneficial for them that He go away so that the Holy Spirit would be

given. What could be better than having Jesus with you in physical form? Having the Spirit of Christ dwelling within you, wherever you are!

## Someone is Interceding For Us

In our tremendous recent sermon series on Romans, Canon Ray David Glenn made these remarkable observations from Romans chapter 8:

"We can come into the heavenly throne room, not just as beggars, but as sons of God – as heirs with Jesus. Because we are in Christ, when we come to

God in prayer, we have as much right to be before the throne room of God as Jesus Himself."

"Right now the Spirit of God is interceding for you. He is praying that you would know the will of God, that, in the face of tragedy, brokenness and bad news, you would know that God has a good plan. He has it in hand, whatever 'it' is. He has a plan for you."

The Holy Spirit will help us in our weakness, and, indeed, He is even interceding for us and through us. Even in our attempts at prayer we are not left alone. However inadequate the devil may tell us our prayers are, the Spirit of God Himself is assisting and empowering us as we make the effort to pray.

## I Can't Play Piano

Recently, I attended a conference in Vancouver, sponsored by our Biblically Grounded priority team, on Being Clear About the Gospel. One of the speakers was Dr. Rick Reed, president of Heritage College and Seminary in Cambridge ON. In his presentation on the work of the Holy Spirit in Romans 8, he shared this helpful illustration that he has graciously allowed me to include in this meditation.

"When I was in university I went to a concert on campus where a Christian singer/songwriter, Alan Basham, performed a number of songs on his

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guitar. At one point, he went over to the piano and started to play a simple song.

“The song started with the words: ‘I’ve been told that I can’t play piano. And it’s true I don’t play very well. But if I wait until it’s perfect, maybe I will never play at all. So I’ll play, play anyway. I’ll lift my voice to heaven. I’ll play, play anyway, I’ll lift my voice to heaven.’

“It was evident that he was not accomplished on the piano.

“But there was another piano on stage. As Alan played, another keyboard player sat down at the other piano. He began to play along with Alan. But it was clear that he was a virtuoso. He added runs and fills that made the music glorious.

**He brings my prayers to the Lord in a way that makes them soar and sing.**

“When it comes to prayer, sometimes I feel like Alan at the piano. I plunk out my simple prayers and feel they are so inadequate. But the Holy Spirit comes to assist me. Romans 8:26-27 tells us he intercedes for us. He brings my prayers to the Lord in a way that makes them soar and sing. I’m so grateful for the help of the Spirit in prayer.”

## Less-Than-Perfect Prayers

How glorious is it that, even in our less-than-perfect prayers, God is enabling us to enter this intimate place with Him! Church, let’s choose to invite the Spirit to “play the other piano”, to help us in our weakness in prayer and to build our confidence in being in God’s presence without guilt or shame. Amen! Amen!

**Canon Garth V. Hunt**

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# Prayer Calendar | April 2018

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

- 1. Easter services today:** - As ANiC churches across Canada and in New England celebrate the Risen Lord Jesus today, pray that the Lord will grant us a rich harvest of new believers coming into the Kingdom. May those that preach the Gospel today have a Spirit-given anointing to deliver the Good News with power and effectiveness.
- 2. Our diocese** – Pray for the Anglican Network in Canada and all our parishes across Canada and in New England.
- 3. 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.
4. 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.
- 5. ANiC's 5 Ministry Priorities** – Pray that God will use these five priorities to transform us and our parishes: Bold witnesses; Biblically grounded; Loving children; On mission; and Planting churches.
6. 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. Pray especially for Bishop Trevor as he undergoes cancer treatment.
- 7. 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.
8. 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. Pray also for our retired bishop, **Bishop Malcolm Harding (& Marylou)**. Thank God for their fruitful ministries.
9. The third **Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON)** being held in Jerusalem June 17 -22 2018. This is an immensely important gathering of up to 2000 orthodox, Bible-believing Anglicans from all around the world. Pray that all that is in the heart of God for this conference will proceed unheeded by the enemy. Pray for protection upon the conference and the travels of all delegates. Pray for financial provision for those who otherwise might find the cost of attending prohibitive.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 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 archdeacons, canons & all clergy** – Pray for spiritual and physical protection and renewal as well as for God's blessing on them, their spouses & families. (Archdeacons: Paul Charbonneau, Ron Corcoran, Darrell Critch, Paul Crossland, Dan Gifford, Terry Lamb, Michael McKinnon, Tim Parent)
- 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)  
Saint Saviours, (Lloydminster 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)  
new projects in Houston and Smithers

**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. 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.

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 **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