

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

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Serving, Supporting, and Encouraging Prayer

The Light is Stronger Than the Darkness

A letter from National Director Paul Feheley

On November 18, 1991 Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon freed Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite after more than four years of captivity. Terry was the special envoy for peace and reconciliation of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie. He had travelled to Lebanon to try to secure the release of four hostages when He himself was kidnapped and held captive from 1987 to 1991 with four years spent in solitary confinement. Terry's faith was an incredibly important sustaining factor in keeping his courage and spirits alive during his ordeal.

His words, "The light is stronger than the darkness" inspired the Dean of Canterbury, Robert Willis to pen an exceptionally beautiful hymn which speaks to our world in an immensely powerful way today. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDTO6RgrZj0>

In a world where people walk in darkness
Let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the Daystar scattering our night.

*(Refrain) For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.*

In a world where suffering of the helpless
Casts a shadow all along the way,
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness
And proclaim the dawning of the day. (Refrain)

Let us light a candle in the darkness,
In the face of death, a sign of life.
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,
As a sign of peace in place of strife. (Refrain).

...con't



The Light is Stronger... (continued)

For many months we have all been dealing with the darkness of the COVID pandemic. For some it has caused mourning and grief as friends and family die from the ravages that it brings. Others have experienced abuse and violence being shut in with perpetrators. Many are living through the pain of loneliness, depression and even suicidal thoughts while being shut out from the world. This is where the Dean's words speak so loudly to each of us and to a world in need. The season of Advent and Christmas summons us to "turn our faces to the light," revealed in the child in the manger and to "light a candle in the darkness" as a sign of hope.

In your prayers please always remember "the light is stronger than the darkness" and that together we will get through all this for Christ will be born, bread will be broken, the gospel will be proclaimed and our faces will glow in and with the light of Christ.



Current Work of the AFP Executive *Val Kenyon, National Chair*

I write this to you amidst the many changes and adaptations that we are all being asked to embrace in this time of COVID-19. Ironically, I have found it to be both a time when we are being asked to "think outside the box" while at the same time being encouraged to pay attention to items "within the box" that we may have previously overlooked. Like so many, the Executive of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer continues to connect *virtually* to consider ways in which we might be a support to all of those seeking to grow in their prayer lives and experiences (Please take special note of an announcement from our Director Paul Feheley about an upcoming virtual prayer event, "Come and Let Us Pray").

Resources: As creating, updating and revising resources are a central task of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, they are frequently at the heart of our discussions. While in the New Year we anticipate making some changes to our paper resources that we will share when more details are available, we are always looking for feedback from you, in particular about what might be done to assist your use of these resources especially during these challenging times.

During these days of greater restrictions to our gatherings, it might be just the time to use the audio/video resources found at: <http://anglicanprayer.org/index.php/resources/>. Whether you choose the shorter, "Encounters on a Journey", or perhaps structure an entire parish day of prayer around the complete conference series, "Praying Congregations" or "Touching the Heart", you will find something to inspire your practice of prayer.

You will continue to find many of the written resources available for your viewing and printing at the same location on our website as the audio/video resources. A virtual study or prayer group could find, *Listening to God A ten session adventure in purposefully setting out to listen to God by Rosemary Green*, the perfect resource for their virtual gathering. Or trying something new to many of us, as found in A Circle of Prayer: The Anglican Rosary for All of God's People, you will find not only prayers to use with an Anglican Rosary, but you can actually learn how to craft one.

In addition to these and other resources found online, please look for elsewhere in this newsletter Paul Dumbrille's encouragement to undertake our own Emmaus Walking either actually or virtually. It may be just the thing, even if a little brisk outside, for a sunny afternoon walk.

Continuing to hold you all in prayer, every blessing!

*Turn to God
in all things,
and in all
things see
God.*

*-Mechtild of
Magdeburg*

Come and Let Us Pray Together

At the most recent meeting of the AFP executive we discussed ways that we could respond and help people dealing with the COVID pandemic. Many organizations have been providing a vast number of webinars such that the feeling was that we are supersaturated with information and the technology that goes with it. Our response is to say why we don't we do what we do best- and that is to pray.

We will be hosting a one-hour time of prayer on December 21, January 18, and February 15 at 1:00pm Eastern time. We are inviting people to join us for some or all of the hour. It will be a mixture of biblical readings, reflection, music, intercession, silence and other types and kinds of pray. You are welcome to actively participate or simply listen and pray quietly.

We will use the "Zoom" way of gathering people together. To join on computer, please click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82001408803?pwd=WXRMFJZSHRLcUYwdGpUU1YvMmlxZz09>
Meeting ID: 820 0140 8803 Passcode: 359803

You can also join us by telephone at one of these numbers (with the same meeting ID and passcode):

(778)907-2071, (204)272-7920, (438)809-7799, (587)328-1099, (647)374-4685, (647)558-0588

We would be grateful if you would share this information with anyone who might be interested, and we look forward to your prayer and presence with us.

Prayer Matters: An Emmaus Walk

By Paul Dumbrille

Many of us in these days of COVID are taking the opportunity to spend more time walking outside, often with a companion who may be a member of our family bubble or a special friend. Taking inspiration from Luke's story of the walk on the road to Emmaus found in Luke 24:13-35 when the disciples met Jesus while walking.

This way of walking together could take about an hour. It is done outside, and in these COVID times can be done with mask wearing and physical distancing. An initial time of silence, scripture and prayer is held, after which pairs set out for a walk. On their return they share their experiences.

Prepare: Begin with praying together asking God to open our minds and spirits to the light of the Holy Spirit and God's loving presence. This is followed by reading together a short selection of Scripture, such as Luke's story of the Emmaus Walk, or the Sunday's Gospel, or perhaps a commentary. This is followed by five minutes of shared silence.

Walk Out: After this period of preparation, the two people forming a pair walk together, prayerfully sharing their reflections on the scripture or other reading, and the initial prayer time. This should take up to a half hour.

Walk Back: When the outward point has been reached, the pair should pause, turn, and retrace their steps, walking together at a steady pace to the starting place, but now in silence.

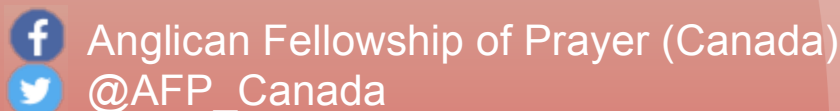
Conclusion: Conclude by gathering at the starting place, and if desired re-read the passage and/or share any experiences that the participants may have had during the walk. To finish, spend at least a further five minutes in silence, followed by a final blessing prayer.

Notes: This type of walk should be undertaken with a measure of patience, and with prayerful preparation. If the first experience does not altogether succeed, don't let that worry you.

Virtual Walk: This model of walking together in prayerful meditation could be adapted to become a virtual walk together. It might begin with meeting with one other on-line for a time of prayer and reading together, followed by a time of sharing on-line as in the "Walk Out" noted above. Then the virtual session could be shut down for 30 minutes or more for the "Walk Back" time, in which participants either actually walk outside or spend time alone inside. Then the on-line session could be restarted for discussion and/or final prayers.

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

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*Next Newsletter: March 2021
Submission deadline: March 1, 2021*



All of us are deeply aware that 2020 has been an exceedingly difficult year in many different ways. One of the ways it has impacted the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer is our finances. Many of those who often and regularly contribute to this ministry have been deeply affected by the pandemic. We are hoping to catch up on some of the financial challenges that we face and are asking that if you are in a position to assist with your contribution, we would be very grateful. For those who are not able, we completely understand and value you as members of our fellowship. There are details on how to contribute are on the back page in the newsletter. We would also advise you that you may contribute via Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/anglican-fellowship-of-prayer-canada/>

A reminder that if your contributions are to be included in your 2020 income tax receipt we must receive them by December 31, 2020. Thank you.

*Archdeacon Paul Feheley
AFP (Canada) National Director*

*Rev'd Canon Val Kenyon
AFP (Canada) Executive Chair*



Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Annual Appeal

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