

BY GEORGE

152 Years

A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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CHOSEN

*All Scripture is
God-breathed!*
2 Timothy 3: 16



Wm Tyndale,
martyred in 1536
for giving us the
Scriptures in our
own language.



Choice is one of the greatest blessings we enjoy in Canada. We can choose our career, our spouse, our home, our car and even what we are going to eat for supper. Every moment is bombarded with choice. We choose our leisure and what we are going to watch on T.V. We partly define our freedom in terms of our ability to make choices.

This may be true. Freedom can come in the form of choice. However, choice can also lead to slavery. We become paralyzed in the face of too many options, enslaved by a 500 channel universe. Our lives, if defined by choice, become subject to our own insecurities and misplaced affections. Our fancy is fleeting and our changing

choices offer no secure bedrock on which to build a stable life.

This is true, if our choices are made situationally - i.e., with no foundational principles and absolute truths to guide our decision-making process. Context becomes our only guideline. We see this in our day-to-day lives, but how much more so in our relationship with our God.

If my relationship with God is based on my choosing Him, then what will happen on the days when my resolve is less strong? Elements of slavery begin to creep in. I become subject to the slavery of my own doubts and fears - my own inadequacies and fickleness.

Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide ..." John 15:16

When God lays His hand

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on you and you begin a personal relationship with him through Jesus, He will never let you go. The relationship is not secure because of the strength and constancy of your will, but because of His. He chose you! The same God who says, "I am the Lord, I change not." Malachi 3:6 *KJV*

I remember growing up playing road hockey. Ten or so kids would come out on the street and gather in a group. The oldest two kids would declare themselves captains. They would stand before the rest of us and begin the process of picking their teams. I was always the youngest in the group and Jeff was always the oldest. Being the youngest, I was also the least talented player - a real liability to my team. But Jeff would always pick me first. Moved by grace and compassion, he chose me out of the group. Not because I was the greatest, not because I was a good hockey player, but because he was compassionate.

Somehow in this act I find a picture of God. He chooses us not for our great talents and skill, not because we are the best and brightest, not even because we never fail, but because He is gracious and compassionate - not willing that any should perish.

Dear St. George's family, far too often we fall into bondage disguised as freedom - as choice. Take comfort in the fact that your relationship with God is secure because he has chosen you, even though you do not merit His love.

Ray David Glenn

PHOTO BOARD

We are updating a photo board for the congregation of St George's. Especially during this time of transition, it is important to know names and faces of other church members. Please help us by forwarding a photograph of your family to email address donna.ps146@gmail.com If you do not have the means to email a photograph, please see either Debbie Brewer or Donna Denison before or after a Sunday service to get your photo taken. We hope to complete this project by the end of November. So see us next Sunday.

Donna Denison

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Pick up a shoebox today and fill it with small gifts to brighten a child's life.

Return date November 9

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen [BCP]

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

MARNEY AND JOAN - OUR MISSION PARTNERS



The Rev. Dr. Marney Patterson was the very first Canadian to come under the leadership of Archbishop Greg Venables of the Southern Cone. Marney is also Canada's only itinerant Anglican evangelist. And Marney's third claim to fame is that he and his wife Joan are faithful members of St. George's Church, worshipping with us here at Crossroads when they are not on overseas missions.

Marney has been an Anglican clergyman since 1956. Prior to entering the ministry he worked in the broadcasting industry in both Canada and the United States, after which he spent four years as a salesman and manager in retail. Following his ordination, Marney served for twelve years in the Diocese of Toronto until God called him in 1966 to a full time ministry of evangelism. **Invitation To Live** was born, a big step of faith, for Marney and Joan had four young children, and although Marney was granted a leave of absence from the Diocese of Toronto and had the blessing of his bishop, no salary came with the new job. Invitation to Live has always been a faith ministry, entirely dependent on gifts from its friends.

The ministry of Invitation to Live is an ongoing example of God's faithful provision. For forty-two years Marney has accepted invitations to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad, in 94 Diocese and 34 countries. Volunteer team members from many denominations accompany Marney as needed, paying their own expenses. The result is that thousands of people have responded positively to the gospel message. Years ago two young men in Canada's far north became Christians as they listened to Marney preach and now they are bishops in the Diocese of the Arctic.

In 2005, with the Anglican Church of Canada continuing to move away from the teachings of Scripture, Marney resigned from the Anglican Church of Canada, and was received into the Diocese of Argentina by Archbishop Venables of the Southern Cone.

Right now Marney, Joan and six other team members are in Kenya, East Africa. Marney has been asked to lead a sixteen day ministry of reconciliation for the Kenyan clergy and people. These believers find it difficult to forgive their fellow Kenyans who burned their churches and killed their family members and friends during the tribal warfare of December and January. Please pray for Marney, Joan and their team that they may have the love, wisdom, humility and grace needed to minister to thousands of Kenyans who lost their loved ones and their homes.

Pam Bales



All Scripture is God-breathed!



IN OUR OWN LANGUAGE

It is disturbing to read about the reformation in England. It is partly the horror and violence. Lives were cruelly taken: the lives of good men, William Tyndale, Bishop Hugh Latimer, Bishop Nicholas Ridley, Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer and a host of other men and women too. These were people of conviction and courage. They were burned at the stake or otherwise violently killed for providing the Scriptures in English for any to read, or for daring to teach and to preach Jesus the only Saviour, or even for daring to live by the Word of God.

This period is disturbing for other reasons too. It is more than the violence; it is the weakness of men, the self-preservation and the compromises. And where do we look for these? In the very same people. They are our heroes; they gave us the Scriptures in our own language; they gave us our prayer book in our own language. But they were people, just as weak as people are; they were just as weak as we ourselves certainly would have been. And it was their shame.

How could that be? All it took was one concession, even a very small one, one insignificant concession to save your life. Just enough to put you in their power. Just big enough to weigh your conscience down. When the day to stand for truth came, friends would tell them, "Just make one concession." And sometimes, to their shame, they did. And it spared them! Invariably, it spared them for the moment, but only for the moment, because they could not give up the truth. They could not give up the Saviour.

What is there about truth that leads to such violent clashes? What is there about the Scriptures worth laying down your life to defend? **THE PRECIOUS TREASURE!** God speaks there. Truth is there; salvation is there; Jesus is there. God reveals His truth in the Scriptures; it is there that we find JESUS; it is there that the Holy Spirit meets us and ushers us through the door from death unto life. It is the precious treasure. Precious treasure is certain to bring conflict. Because it is life, the truth of the Scriptures must be defended to the death even. Where else would we find Jesus?

Without the Bible, truth was missing in the pre-reformation church. There was only superstition and myth. In the empty rituals of the church there was no salvation, no forgiveness, and no peace. The gospel of the Lord Jesus was missing. Where else would we find Jesus but in the Scriptures?



Thomas Bilney, martyred 1531

What brought about the transformation of the Reformation? It was GRACE! It was God's grace! How did He do it through weak and sinful men? It was God's grace!

Within the pages of Reformation history are many stories of great grace. Here are a few that give hope to us hopers in God's grace in our day.

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Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

Thomas Bilney (1495 – 1531) was a young student at Trinity Hall in Cambridge. Like Martin Luther he spent his early life, twenty-four, seven, struggling to make his peace with God. He went to the priests and made his confession. The remedies were obvious. One prescribed fasting, another prolonged vigils, another masses, another many prescribed indulgences that were very costly. None of these set his conscience at rest; none brought him any peace; none had any effect but to make him more and more gaunt. He was killing himself, but never finding forgiveness and never finding peace.

One day he heard his friends talking about a new book. It was a Greek New Testament translated into elegant Latin by the scholar Erasmus. He wanted to read it, but the confessors had strictly forbidden Greek and Hebrew books. They were the source of all heresies, the confessors had said. But Bilney could not miss what might be his last chance. Urged, he said, by the hand of God, he slipped into the house where this book was being sold secretly. He bought it, took it home, and shut himself in. As he opened the book, his eye fell on the words **“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”**[KJV] We know this precious verse. It is I Timothy 1: 15. It is among the “comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.” in our Communion service.

This word transformed him. “Jesus Christ, yes, Jesus Christ saves!” Gone the fear and despair! Peace flooded in. A simple word of grace brought a wonderful transformation from death to life.

It was this same Thomas Bilney, whom God used to bring Hugh Latimer to faith in the Lord Jesus. Hugh Latimer was a Saul, fervent and zealous in his day persecuting believers and trying valiantly to stamp out the reading and studying of the Scriptures. Bilney had been watching Latimer’s activities and sensed a hidden longing in Latimer’s heart. A desire to win this priest to the Lord rose up within him. The question was how to go about it. He reflected and prayed and a plan came to him.



Bishop Hugh Latimer,
Martyred 1555

He went to the college where Latimer lived and asked Latimer to hear his confession. Latimer thought that Bilney had turned from his heretical views and agreed eagerly. But Bilney knelt before Latimer and began to tell his own story: the anguish he had once felt in his soul, all the efforts that he had made to find forgiveness, the hopelessness of all those efforts, the peace that he had found when he trusted in Jesus. Latimer’s guard was down. He was listening intently with an open heart. The Holy Spirit was speaking. Latimer was transformed. That is nothing but grace!

William Tyndale (1494 – 1536) was a contemporary of Bilney. Like Thomas Bilney, he too came to the Lord Jesus through reading the New Testament of Erasmus, in his case as a

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All Scripture is God-breathed!



(Continued from page 5)

student at Oxford. Every place Tyndale preached, immediately hostile priests descended, tore up the seeds of the Gospel that he had just planted, called him a heretic, and threatened to expel from the church everyone who dared to listen to Tyndale. He exclaimed, "What is to be done? While I am sowing in one place, the enemy ravages the field I have just left."

A great idea sprang up in his heart. He believed that this idea came to him directly from God. Believers must have the Scriptures in their own language. Then they could withstand the assaults of the enemy of the Gospel. He began to translate the Scriptures into English, first in England, but finally as persecution increased, fleeing to the continent. In hiding he persevered. Finally, just as his translation began to roll off the press, the secret leaked out. As it happened, a vicious enemy of the Gospel, one Cochlaeus, heard the careless speech of a printer intoxicated by liquor and made it his business to stamp out the threat of an English Bible. But God acted in grace. Just before Cochlaeus and his forces arrived at the printing press on their mission of destruction, Tyndale had fled by boat with the precious pages of manuscript.

The Lord protected His Word until, in the spring of 1526, the New Testaments in the English language crossed the sea to England in the care of faithful merchants. Who dared receive such a cargo in London, at the risk of his own life? Well, there was a curate named Thomas Garrett who offered his house for this precious cargo and undertook to distribute the New Testaments.

These are just a few stories of our great God acting in grace bringing His light into the darkness. There are many more such stories found in D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation in England. They are full of hope for us.

Mary Ann Masters



Scripture Union Notes

Scripture Union Notes would make excellent Christmas gifts for children and adults. Children's notes are \$26 for the year and adults' notes are \$36.

There will be an information and sign up table on Nov. 9 .

For more information, call Linda Calbery at 905-878-5195

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

Introducing Sami the Tailor

Some may have noticed the new Trinity Green cloths used on the Communion Table, and wondered where they came from.

The story is this. Jenny and I were privileged to be among the group of St. George's people who were invited to attend GAFCON (the Global Anglican Futures Conference) in Jerusalem in June of this year; that story is in the midsummer edition of By George! It seemed to me a good opportunity to search for some out-of-the-ordinary clergy stoles, and I found them at the stand of Sami the Tailor. Sami M. Barsom is not only the Tailor, he is also the Mukhtar, or Mayor, of the Christian Syriac Orthodox Community in Jerusalem. This is a somewhat delicate position, being leader of a minority in the midst of the mix of faiths, denominations, and secular groups in Jerusalem.

While Sami and I were bargaining over the stoles, he asked where we were from, and what we were doing in Jerusalem, and I told him about St. George's and our stand for the Gospel. When we had struck the bargain on the stoles, he gave me the two cloths that now adorn our Communion Table as a gift for St. George's. In return he asked only that we as a congregation would remember him and his Syriac community, and that we would pray for him and them. So I pass on to you that request; please remember and pray for Sami and his people in Jerusalem, especially when you pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Thank you.

The pictures show Sami at his stand at the GAFCON hotel and the handing over of the cloths to Ray David.

Keith Stodart



All Scripture is God-breathed!



We will remember



[The Rev. C. K. Masters, our grandfather, served as a chaplain in the First World War in France. He was wounded in the Battle of Courcellette in October, 1916. The following is a letter to his wife written while he was serving with his regiment, the 58th. Eds.]

Belgium, July 31, 1916

My darling little wife,

I haven't been able to write a line since Friday, things have crowded in so. And so I am making it one of the first tasks of today, just in case something may turn up later to interfere. I spent Friday night at the regimental aid post, Saturday morning going around getting my services arranged for Sunday and the afternoon with the men holding the line, and the night again at the regimental aid post. So far we have had a fairly quiet time.

When I was arranging my services Saturday I ran into a crusty old artillery Colonel who was for packing me straight off down the line. He evidently didn't think this a healthy place for chaplains. However I cooled him off by assuring him that I didn't belong to his brigade.

After a short sleep I was up again yesterday morning about 8:00a.m. I took possession of a half-finished dugout, got some volunteers to clear out the truck, borrowed a small table, and there I had my services. The floor was bare and muddy, but I spread some sandbags and the men knelt on them. The workmen kept right on with their building operations but they did quieter things such as piling sandbags. Just next door, a party of camp cooks were busy getting breakfast ready so we had more than the odor of sanctity.

I had two services at ten and at eleven, both of course communion services, the first for artillerymen and the second for Infantry. We could not have any assembly of men up here so I had them just come in, receive the communion and go away again. It is a touching fact that some of those men will never have another opportunity of receiving the Holy Communion. Some of the artillerymen told me yesterday they had not had the chance of receiving communion since they came over from England. They had a nonconformist padre, attached to them.

As soon as the second service was over, I started on a long tramp down country for a funeral. When I was up line on Saturday, I met and was talking with a young lieutenant Sutherland of Montreal. He had served in the ranks with the Pats for a year and had at last got a commission. He had taken a special signaling course and then been sent to the 58th. He joined on Friday night and was caught by a sniper on Saturday about 6 p. m. shortly after I left him. He was such a nice boy too and so very enthusiastic about his work. I buried him yesterday just beside Major Ballachy. . . .

[C.K.M. goes on to say that he was provided with a horse because it was a long way to the cemetery. It turned out to be a race horse which "ran away with" him on the way back, but he did get back safely.]



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

ST MATTHEW'S HOUSE CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY

When you receive this issue of By-George, Christmas will be less than 2 months away. Again, St George's will be supporting the Christmas St Matthew's House Adopt-A-Family Program. Have you begun to think about gifts and all of the activities that are associated with Christmas? Would you like to consider a special way to share your Christmas with someone less fortunate than you? If so, I invite you to join with fellow parishioners from St George's in making a more joyful Christmas for a low income family by supporting the St Matthew's House Adopt-a-Family Program. For over 44 years, St Matthew's House has given Christmas new meaning for thousands of families. Every year the number grows. Last year they helped over 3000 individuals who through poverty, unemployment and economic hardship had insufficient income to make Christmas a special day.

As a church we would "adopt" **1 or more** families at the cost of \$125 - \$175 per family, depending on the size of the family, and provide for them:

- 1/ a winter jacket/coat for younger children
- 2/ toys for children or suitable gifts for teenagers in attendance at school .
- 3/ a food voucher from Fortino's in Hamilton to cover the cost of their Christmas dinner of meat/fowl, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

Fortino's do not reimburse any unspent money from food vouchers but require all of the money to be spent in the store on food items, thereby assuring all of the money is spent on food.

Envelopes marked for St Matthew's House will be in your Sunday church bulletins on Sunday, November 16th and Sunday November 23rd, 2008. Please place your gift in the labelled envelope on the offering plate not later than December 7th. Cheques should be made payable to the church with a "note" in the left hand corner of your cheque indicating the funds are for "St Matthew's House Christmas Program". Please be sure to include your name and address so an income tax receipt can be provided.

If you have any questions please contact me either after the 9:00 AM Sunday Service, by email at drumard@sympatico.ca or at 905-873 1918. Voice mail records after 6 rings if I am unable to take your call.

Betty Pristol



All Scripture is God-breathed!



Safe Church Policies

The mission of St. George's is to make disciples who make disciples. This process depends on many people, many skills, and many ministries. Common to all these ministries is the peace of mind that comes from knowing that all staff and volunteers are trustworthy. This, unfortunately, is not always a given fact today, so we must take steps to ensure that, as far as possible, all those in positions of leadership and ministry are indeed trustworthy.

St. George's is concerned for the safety of all those who are members and guests in our congregation. Some groups (such as children, singles, the widowed and special needs children and adults) are particularly vulnerable. We have been working to ensure that policies and practices are in place to ensure that all reasonable care is taken to ensure their safety during any St. George's activities, including services, small groups, individual ministry, or other such activity. This means that all St. George's staff and volunteers are required to be screened and trained to levels appropriate to their ministries.

These Policies and Practices are summarized in this article, and each volunteer and member of staff will receive shortly a copy of their position profile and security requirements from their function leaders. We are asking that by **November 11th, 2008**, each person will have not only received this, but will have initiated a Police Records Check if needed. (St. George's will reimburse the costs of PRCs.)

A detailed Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers is available from the Church Office.

Policy

Every staff and volunteer position will have a position profile including the requirements and obligations for that position as it relates to the vulnerable groups defined above.

Every staff and volunteer position will have appropriate training, if required, in dealing with vulnerable groups.

Every person who is in any position of authority, whether elected or appointed, must

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

be familiar with, accept, agree to, and practice the fundamentals of Anglican Christianity. These fundamental documents include: the Thirty-nine Articles, the Solemn Declaration of 1893, the Creeds as contained in the Book of Common Prayer (1662), the Montreal Declaration of 1994, and the GAFCon Statement of 2008.

As a general rule, holders of such positions should have been members of St. George's for at least six months, and should be well known to the congregation.

Every person who ministers in any way to members of the vulnerable groups must obtain and keep current a Police Records Check (PRC). PRCs are obtained from local Police departments. Whenever possible, this should include a check of the Sexual Offenders Registry. PRCs should be kept current. Normally they need to be renewed every three years.

St. George's will reimburse volunteers and staff for the cost of obtaining a PRC.

Practice

St. George's recognizes that most people who currently hold staff and volunteer positions have already been through the former diocesan Screening and Management program, have already had the necessary training, and hold current PRCs (the PRC renewal exercise was required to have been completed in 2007).

PRCs remain the property of the employee or volunteer – no copies are held by the Parish staff. All that is required is that the Rector should see the person's PRC, and, assuming that it is clear, note this in a file maintained for this purpose.

Current ministry leaders and staff should ensure that all ministry staff and volunteers are either reminded of, or if they are recently appointed, are made familiar with the policy established in 2. above, and with the Code of Conduct/Ministry Guidelines available in the Church Office.

Leaders should also ensure that requirements and training practices are updated to take account of the new situation(s) of St. George's people and ministries, particularly in the light of the new "St. George's 101" manual.

Position Profiles are in place for all existing positions – they describe the position objectives; responsibilities; skills and experience needed; training needed; interactions with other positions; security requirements – including risk level and need for a PRC

Keith Stodart



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PRAYER PREPARATION FOR SYNOD

Dear ANiC Member;

So much has transpired in the past year! The Anglican Network in Canada has been fully launched, and welcomed into the Province of the Southern Cone under Archbishop Venables. A growing number of churches have voted to come into the ANiC fold under Bishop Don Harvey. Such decisions have led to various diocesan legal responses and disputes over church properties.

But there is a rising sense of new freedom and joy in the Holy Spirit, even from those who have had to leave their beloved buildings. We are now part of a world-wide reformation in the Anglican Communion. The good news of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed with renewed passion and power. New church plants are arising. Ordinations and confirmations, many delayed for years, are being celebrated with great joy. Our God is at work and he is simply amazing!

And so we come to our first-ever National Synod, November 13th to 15th in Burlington. Whether you are a delegate to synod or not, we ask you to take this prayer preparation to heart and make a commitment to uphold synod in prayer on a daily basis. This first synod is significant and precedent setting. May the Lord grant great wisdom and vision to those giving leadership to this strategic event.

You will find below a brief meditation for each day until November 15th, the final day of synod. As we did last year in preparation for our November conference, we will use the wonderful discourses of Jesus found in the Gospel of John for our daily meditation. Let these words of our Lord provide both deep encouragement and challenge to us, and may they serve as a clear vision for the Church.

November 1- All Saints' Day *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit" John 15: 1-2 ESV*

What a glorious thought to begin our meditations: – our heavenly Father is an expert gardener! He knows exactly what we as branches need and when we need it. Like so many other biblical images of God, here he is shown as active, involved in our growth and health, and has not left us to our own devices. He will prune as required out of deep love and we can trust him to perform it perfectly. How important to pray for God's skilful pruning in our lives, our parish and at synod.

Almighty God, loving and skilful Gardener, we ask you to so prune and adjust us as your people that we may bring forth more and better fruit. Even when it's uncomfortable, may we submit to your loving care for the "branches"; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and our King. Amen

November 2 – *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15: 4-5 ESV*

Here is one of the most important keys to the Christian life – we are not the vine! Ridiculous though it sounds, I have spent much of my life struggling to embrace the fact that I am a branch among many, and that my primary responsibility is to remain, abide in the Vine. Without him, I can accomplish nothing. Fruit develops simply because of the connection between Vine and branch. As we pray for ANiC and the Anglican Communion world-wide, we can rejoice that we are all branches who are actively committed to staying connected to the Vine.

Heavenly Father, who loved us all so much that you did not spare your Son, teach us, even through the events of the upcoming Synod, how to remain in the Vine above all else. We declare our absolute dependence on Jesus without whom we can accomplish nothing of merit. Keep us, Father, in that place of humility where we are satisfied with being the branches, now and through the years and decades to come, in the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

November 3 – *"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." John 15: 7-8 ESV*

"Abiding" in the Lord speaks of a growing intimacy with the Vine from whom we draw our very life and all that we could ever need or imagine. As we draw closer to him, his words remain in us, conforming us to be more and more like him so that what he desires is what we desire. Bountiful fruit appears bringing glory to the Father and our discipleship is authenticated, all because we stay connected to the Vine. Branches don't need to strain to bear fruit; they need to actively choose to "abide".

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

O Lord God, it would be so easy in our fallenness to presume to take the reins and try to guide our church on our own. Bring forth the fruit in us that brings glory to our Father, and protect us from the snares of pride and self-satisfaction. May we make the Father proud of us. Amen

November 4 – *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.” John 15: 9-10 ESV*

Our concept of Love is restricted by the shallowness of our own human experience. We still don’t really get the extent to which God loves us. Can you imagine just how much the Father loves Jesus? Is a greater love than that possible? Wouldn’t it be a 10 out of 10? Jesus says that this is the same Love with which he loves us, you and me. Incredible! A love so strong, so constant, so accepting, so comforting, so safe, why would we ever leave, and why wouldn’t we tell every living soul we know about it. Only because we still have trouble receiving it.

O Father, we find the magnitude of your love almost beyond our comprehension, and yet we are urged by the words of your Son to always remain in his love. May this love be the hallmark of our Synod. Wrap us, envelop us, consume us with that love, we pray, so that all who encounter us, wherever that may be, will sense your love for them as well and find their home in your everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

November 5 – *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15: 12-13 ESV*

There are horizontal implications to the magnitude of God’s love that we looked at yesterday – Jesus commands us to share it! He has earned the right to speak of the ultimate love as that which does not hold back even life itself. How can we muster such love for one another, to say nothing of loving our enemies? We can’t, of course. I believe that Jesus is saying, “Love one another with the very same love with which I love you. Let me love them through you”. As St. Francis prayed, we ask “Make me a channel...” – a channel, a conduit, a river of God’s love flowing through us, as individuals and as a church, to one another and to a hurting and desperate world!

Father, it was never your intent that we horde your love, but that we share it with everyone. Our attempts to show love in our own strength are feeble and grossly inadequate. Use us as conduits for your covenant love – a veritable flood of your acceptance, forgiveness, mercy and grace. May your love flow from the synod meetings to all, even to those who disagree with our stand for the Gospel. Amen

November 6 – *“You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15: 14-15 ESV*

“What a friend we have in Jesus” penned the hymn writer of old, John Scriven. Such a privilege is hard to grasp, isn’t it – a friend of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, mastermind Creator of the cosmos, the One who alone is worthy to unlock the scroll in the last days – he calls me “friend”! It’s by his choice and initiative, not just my wishful thinking! And he is willing to share all that he has heard from the Father with his friends.

O Lord, we are overwhelmed by the thought that you would ever choose to call us friends. By the power of your Spirit, may we walk in a manner worthy of your friendship. Guide us throughout synod and beyond in all that you have heard from the Father so that we may follow you without turning aside to the left or the right. Thank you, Jesus. Amen

November 7 – *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” John 15: 16 ESV*

Imagine yourself as a young orphan, languishing in some dehumanizing refugee camp and yearning for someone, anyone to care about you and take you home. Into that scene walks the Master. He looks at you with loving eyes, smiles and says, “I choose this child. Come with me. I’m taking you home”. Can this be real? Can he be trusted to not abandon me? The answer is a resounding “yes” to both questions! And he has things for us to accomplish with him, things that will last, having eternal consequences. How amazing is his love and grace for each of us!

Almighty God, who has chosen each of us individually, and who has called ANiC into existence for such a time as this, help us to remember that we are yours as a result of your initiative, not ours. Bless this synod



All Scripture is God-breathed!



and all ensuing ministry with fruit that abides, that stands the test of eternity, and that brings glory to your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

November 8 – *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." John 15: 18-19 ESV*

We are passing through a season like no other that we have experienced. People are reacting to our stand for the Gospel. Indeed, some even seem to hate us for what we have done, blaming us for the fracture in the Anglican Communion. Jesus' response to us is simply, "Don't be surprised. They hated me, too." God has given us the privilege/responsibility of being different, chosen "out of the world". Sometimes it's difficult. Sometimes folks we thought were friends betray us and call us all manner of nasty names. But Jesus has been there first, and has taken all that pain to Calvary. Let's lay it all at the foot of the Cross.

Heavenly Father, sometimes the pain of having lies spread about us and having our motives called into question is more than we can bear. We give the pain to you, Father, asking you to heal us in the deep places of our souls. We choose to forgive those who have betrayed us or treated us badly. Forgive us for the times we have slipped into self-pity. Amen

November 9 – *"Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me." John 15: 20-21*

Suffering is one of the great paradoxes of the Kingdom of God. The Gospel message does not promise a fairy tale existence where we "live happily ever after" once we've come to faith in Jesus. It is imperative that we do not evangelize on the faulty basis of "easy believism", but that we help new converts to understand how to rejoice in the midst of persecution, just as the early disciples did. We can also rejoice that we do know the One who sent Jesus into the world, and we can call him "Abba".

Abba Father, forgive us for the presumption that claimed that our salvation would cost us nothing and was all about our comfort. Thank you for the privilege of undergoing some persecution for our faith in Jesus, and we rejoice that we have been found worthy to suffer just a little bit for the sake of the Gospel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

November 10 – *"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." John 15: 26 ESV*

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." John 14: 16-17 ESV

The disciples were beginning to panic as the idea of Jesus no longer being with them in bodily form dawned on them. Jesus suggested to them that it was better for them that he go away, so that "another Helper", the Holy Spirit, might be sent to each one. They had known the Spirit dwelling with them, as in the Old Testament, but after Pentecost, the Spirit would be in each one, empowering them for victorious living and fruitful ministry. What a gift the Father has given to each of us, dwelling within us by the Spirit, forever temples of the Living God!

Holy Spirit, we rejoice in your presence within us and for the gifts that you bring with you to empower us for ministry. Brood upon our synod, we pray, breaking any chains of sinfulness, and releasing us into a fresh anointing for fruitful ministry. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen

November 11 – *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." John 14: 1-3 ESV*

Our Glorious Hope is the return of our Lord Jesus who is coming to take us to the place that he has been preparing for us. There is no greater promise of his than this – that where he is, we may also be, forever with the Lord! Like a bridegroom of the Middle East in biblical times, Jesus has gone away to prepare a new home for his Bride, the Church. This glorious hope causes us to raise our vision above all trials and troubles of this life. May our obedience to his commands hasten the day of his return!

Almighty God, our hearts thrill at the thought of being eternally in your presence, freed from the limitations of the body and the influence of sin forever. As we make plans and put policies in place at synod so that things temporal may run smoothly, help us to keep our vision locked firmly on our Glorious Hope, the return of our King, in whose Name we ask these things.

November 12 – *"And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14: 4-6 ESV*

Jesus' claim to be the only way to the Father is a stumbling block to the liberal religious establishment, both in his own day and in ours. It

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

is either outrageously arrogant or it simply true. Praise God, the Way is not a direction, it is a Person. Truth is not an abstract philosophical concept, it is a Person. Life is not merely the duration of three score and ten years, it is a Person. And his Name is Jesus! He is the only door that has been provided for humanity to access the Father. How blessed are those who have found the door!

Lord Jesus, we are filled with great joy at the delight of knowing the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We thank you for the unspeakable privilege of coming to the Father through the Son. "Thank you for our clergy who teach us your way and preach your truth. Bless them as they spend the day with Bishops Don and Malcolm; may Clergy Day be a time of great blessing, encouragement and restoration." Grant us your protection, both at this synod and at those to come, from ever compromising the truth of your exclusive claim. You are the only Way! Alleluia!

November 13 – *Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. John 14: 8-10 ESV*

Jesus came to show us exactly what God the Father is like. The writer of Hebrews said, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Heb 1: 3 NIV). Jesus' numerous references to the Father had seriously piqued Philip's interest, but he still didn't get it. (I'm so grateful for the disciples' "stupid" questions. They are so genuinely human, and so like what I'd ask.) Want to know what God the Father is like? Look at Jesus. Want to know what God considers important? Look at Jesus. He has indeed shown us the Father. The Incarnation is perfect and complete!

Almighty God, who chose to enter our time/space world by sending your Son to reveal yourself to us, grant us eyes to see all that the Incarnation unveils. As we begin synod today, may we bring glory to your Name and do those things that demonstrate that we have indeed seen the Father revealed in the Son. We seek to do your will, O Lord, and yours alone. Amen

November 14 – *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will be do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14: 12-13 ESV*

There has been much debate over the centuries as to what Jesus meant when he said "Greater works than these will he do". Did he mean greater in number because Jesus only lived 33 years? Did he mean greater in the sense of more spectacular? The debate may continue, but what we must take from this promise is that Jesus anticipated the continuation of supernatural and miraculous ministry. He promises to do what we ask in his Name so that the Father will be glorified. Demythologizing the Bible, diminishing or denying miracle, has left its dirty footprints on the Church, even on those of us who are evangelical and orthodox in our theology. We don't see much of the miraculous because we don't expect to see much. Lord forgive us for settling for less than all that Jesus both expected and provided for.

Heavenly Father, we do repent of allowing the embarrassment of the miraculous to impact our expectations in ministry. As ANiC moves forward in your will and purpose, may we see a renewal of all that you intended in the sending of the Holy Spirit to empower your Church. May healing of body and soul, deliverance from bondage, and miraculous provision be more and more experienced in our lives and ministries; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

November 15 – On this, the last day of Synod, let us pray this well-known Prayer for the Church found in the Book of Common Prayer:

Most gracious God, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth; in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where any thing is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it, where it is divided and rent asunder, make it whole again, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Garth V. Hunt

National Prayer Coordinator, ANiC



All Scripture is God-breathed!

<p>St. George's Anglican Church, Lowville, member congregation of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANIC)</p> <p>Phone: 1-866- 351 2642 ext 4050 email: stgeorgesanglicanchurch@bellnet.ca Web Site: www. stgeorgeslowville.org</p> <p>By George editors: J. Masters, M. Masters email: mmasters@bserv.com</p>	<table> <tr> <td>Rector</td> <td>Rev. Ray David Glenn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth Pastor</td> <td>Scott Walker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seniors' Pastoral Care</td> <td>Kathy Powell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ministry Coordinator</td> <td>Naomi Neeb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Church Secretary</td> <td>Donna Rigo</td> </tr> </table>	Rector	Rev. Ray David Glenn	Youth Pastor	Scott Walker	Seniors' Pastoral Care	Kathy Powell	Ministry Coordinator	Naomi Neeb	Church Secretary	Donna Rigo
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<p>Services are for the whole family and everyone is welcome.</p> <p>Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295 North Service Road, Burlington</p> <p>9:00 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion 10: 45 family service, nursery and Sunday school</p>											

*Here what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all
that truly turn to him.*

*Come unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh
you. St. Matthew 11:28*

*God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end
that all that believe in him should not perish, but
have eternal life. St. John 3: 16*

*Here also what Saint Paul saith. This is a true say-
ing, and worthy of all men to be received, that
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*

1 Timothy 1: 15

*Here also what Saint John saith. If any man sin, we
have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the
righteous ; and he is the propitiation for our sins.*

1 John 2: 1,2 [BCP]



**Thomas Cranmer ,
Archbishop of Canterbury,**
was God's instrument in
providing us our Book of
Common Prayer. He was
martyred for his faith in
1556.