



## Why do Anglicans read prayers and repeat so much?

In Anglican services, the ministers lead, but the people are actually performing the worship. The people are able to do this because they know how to worship. They have been trained with a tool called the prayer book. It is not intended to replace the Bible. The prayer book, though, is to worship what the hymnal is to music.

The recited prayers are part of the training manual for worship. They are not the only kind of prayer, for there will also be "free" prayer during worship. Our Book of Common Prayer has special places for the ministers to say extemporaneous prayers. The set prayers follow Biblical examples such as the Lord's Prayer. They are usually well-stated prayers that uniquely express the common needs of God's people. They are called "collects" because they are a collection of the needs of Christians that are brought to God by the minister.

Set prayers are prayers that have a unique history to them. The following prayer has a special story attached to it: "O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assault of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." This prayer was written by a minister in the city of Rome sometime during the fourth century A.D. It was composed at a time when barbarians were about to conquer the city. On the night on which it was prayed, the barbarians mysteriously left and

never came back. The Church has kept this prayer which God so profoundly honored.

The common objection to read prayers are that they are not sincere. But this is not necessarily the case. People read vows at a wedding or even memorize what they say. Does this mean that they are insincere? Hardly. In fact, human beings very carefully choose their words when they really have to mean them. Remember, this is how people act at special occasions before special people.

But how about the repetition? Doesn't this lead to deadness? No, again. Humans usually like to repeat what they love. Favorite, oft-recited portions of scripture such as Psalm 23, the Lord's Prayer, and the Beatitudes, all serve to illustrate this. How about certain hymns, Christmas carols, or simple songs such as Jesus Loves Me? These are repeated by the same people over and over. Does the repetition mean they are insincere or don't mean what they say? Not at all. They are repeating what they love and mean. In fact, repetition is difficult when people don't mean what they are saying. This is true of every aspect of worship.

Finally, repetition has been called the "mother of learning." Repetition is a way of learning basic elements of anything, including worship. Most Christians don't know how to worship because they have been led to believe that it comes naturally. It doesn't, no more than anything in the Christian life come naturally. It must be learned. And, since repetition is the most basic way of learning, the worship service involves repeating certain important parts.





**NEWS FROM THE VESTRY!**

The vestry met on June 22nd. First on the agenda as always, was a review of our financial situation. While things are not as wonderful as we would like, we are fortunate that our giving hasn't dropped so far over the summer. We are very thankful to members of the congregation for keeping up their pledges and being so generous.

The Warden's report was very short this month as Craig Benoit was not able to attend the meeting, however, our Senior Warden, Elbert Wilkinson reported that we have passed our water test with flying colors. Because we have a well we are required to test our water on a monthly basis and report the findings to the health department. This is very important for the health of our members.

The vestry also reviewed the Memorial Garden progress. We are having a great response from our

members so far. In fact, it has exceeded our initial projections. To date, we have over 20 people who are purchasing niches. The special account we've set up for the Memory Garden currently has around \$22,000 in cash. Considering that many people are using the payment plan, we expect to be at the magic number for starting construction very soon. Remember that we have a special price of \$900 for members and a payment plan, if you purchase during 2009. The price will be going up in 2010. If you compare this price to a commercial cemetery niche, you will be amazed at how inexpensive our prices are. Space for two for \$900, it's quite a bargain.

The Newsletter was discussed and it was agreed that we would be cutting back the size to what you are seeing now, and we are trimming back from eight pages to four. The Newsletter will be added to the church bulletin on the first Sunday of every month.

The meeting ended as be began, with a prayer.

**Upcoming Events at  
St. George!**

- **July 4th - MASS & PICNIC**
- **August 1st - DOG DAYS PICNIC**
- **September 19th - HIGH TEA**
- **October 3rd - BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**  
Complete with demonstration from the Sheriffs Mounted unit and the K-9 units. Additionally, we are having a Dog Show and some other events. Please Come!

**Coming Soon!**

**The St. George "GUIDED MISSAL"**

St. George is developing a supplemental missal that provides background information and explanations about the parts of Mass. It is designed to help visitors and new members of the church who may be new to a liturgical form of worship understand our form of worship. It may even provide information that wasn't commonly known even to long time Anglicans.

At present the missal is in it's final stage of editing. We will have a trial version printed and available for use in mid-July or early August. The trial version is to collect comments and edits (anyone who spots a typo or makes a suggestion receives a religious medal). We expect the final version of the missal to be printed and bound in September. Please help us with this project. We feel that it will be a great help in getting visitors and people curious about traditional forms of worship to know us better and understand our form of worship.

PLEASE NOTE: this will NOT replace the present missal, it is only a supplement.



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**THE CONGREGATION CORNER (SUBMITTED BY OUR PARISHIONERS)**

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**WHY GO TO CHURCH?**

**A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday (or Saturday) "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."**

**This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:**

**"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.**

**Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"**

**When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!**

**Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!**

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**"Did God create evil?"**

At first it might seem that if God created all things, then evil must have been created by God. However, evil is not a "thing" like a rock or electricity. You cannot have a jar of evil. Evil has no existence of its own; it is really the absence of good. For example, holes are real but they only exist in something else. We call the absence of dirt a hole, but it cannot be separated from the dirt. So when God created, it is true that all He created was good. One of the good things God made was creatures who had the freedom to choose good. In order to have a real choice, God had to allow there to be something besides good to choose. So, God allowed these free angels and humans to choose good or

reject good (evil). When a bad relationship exists between two good things we call that evil, but it does not become a "thing" that required God to create it.

Perhaps a further illustration will help. If a person is asked, "Does cold exist?" the answer would likely be "yes." However, this is incorrect. Cold does not exist. Cold is the absence of heat. Similarly, darkness does not exist; it is the absence of light. Evil is the absence of good, or better, evil is the absence of God. God did not have to create evil, but rather only allow for the absence of good.

God did not create evil, but He does allow evil. If God had not allowed for the possibility of evil, both mankind and angels would be serving God out of obligation, not choice. He did not want "robots" that simply did what He wanted them to do because of their "programming." God allowed for the possibility of evil so that we could genuinely have a free will and choose whether or not we wanted to serve Him.

As finite human beings, we can never fully understand an infinite God (Romans 11:33-34). Sometimes we think we understand why God is doing something, only to find out later that it was for a different purpose than we originally thought. God looks at things from a holy, eternal perspective. We look at things from a sinful, earthly, and temporal perspective. Why did God put man on earth knowing that Adam and Eve would sin and therefore bring evil, death, and suffering on all mankind? Why didn't He just create us all and leave us in heaven where we would be perfect and without suffering? These questions cannot be adequately answered this side of eternity.

What we can know is whatever God does is holy and perfect and ultimately will glorify Him. God allowed for the possibility of evil in order to give us a true choice in regards to whether we worship Him. God did not create evil, but He allowed it. If He had not allowed evil, we would be worshipping Him out of obligation, not by a choice of our own will.

**FYI - Our current season is Trinity according to our church calendar:**

Trinity is the final and longest season (six months) of the Church year begins with a special Sunday devoted to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, the basis of the Christian faith. Throughout the season, however, the ministry, miracles, and teachings (especially concerning the kingdom of God) are emphasized.

The color is green for growth of the Church after Pentecost.

**Notes from Father Jim:**

The subject is the Real Presence in the Eucharist. Consideration of that mystery known as "the Real Presence" touches the very heart of our Christian worship and faith. It has reference to the belief that Christ-God is truly present on the altar in some special way in His Body and Blood after the consecration by the priest of the bread and wine.

In most Protestant Churches, the Holy Communion is a memorial service only. The Anglican Church, however, regards it as a sacred or sacramental representation of the sacrifice of Christ once offered on Calvary. It is also a sacrificial offering of "ourselves, our souls and bodies".

When the priest pronounces the very words of institution which Christ used at the Last Supper, followed by the invocation to God to bless the elements "with thy Word [the Son] and the Holy Spirit", the bread and wine become in a mystical way which Anglicanism has never attempted to define closely the very Body and Blood of Christ – although of course remaining in all physical aspects simply bread and wine.

Christ is always present in spirit in the hearts and souls of men. By virtue of His Resurrection and

Ascension, He is present in our world and in our lives. But Anglicans believe with the rest of the Holy Catholic Church that He is present in a special way on the altar in the Blessed Sacrament. Without attempting to define this presence strictly, the Anglican Church has always affirmed it and its reality.

This Real Presence demands of all worshippers a special reverence, a special silence, some special mark of recognition. Some worshippers mark it by genuflecting, or else bowing toward the altar when going to receive. Some cross themselves before or after receiving. Some mark it in other outward ways. All Anglican worshippers should recognize in their hearts that God is specially and really present on the altar during Holy Communion, as well on those altars where the consecrated sacramental elements are reserved. All Anglican worshippers should make an effort to mark this fact in some way.

If Christ came and stood in recognizable physical form at the altar we would certainly behave with utmost reverence; we would certainly not behave in any idle, carefree, everyday manner. Nor should we do so in the Presence of Christ's Body and Blood. However mystical, intangible and inexplicable that Presence is, the Church and our faith teach us that it is a Real presence.

May God Bless

Father Jim

\*from the Anglican Teaching Leaflets by Perry Laukhuff



# JULY 2009

St. George Anglican Church Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Birthdays</b> – John Williams –01, Nancy Dean-04, Tim Stafford-05, Colleen Harvey-07, Sandy Sailor-14, Edward Strait-16, Jane Livingston-18, Jean Preston-21, Monte Lake-22, Robert Harmon-25, Joann Lake-26, Claire Amato-29	<b>1</b> Canada Day 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>7:00 AM Green Team</b> Teary 11:00 AM Mass & 4th of July PICNIC	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 AM Green Team 11:00 AM Bright Ideas 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon
<b>5</b> 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 AM Green Team 11:00 AM Bright Ideas 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon
<b>12</b> 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Bastille Day	<b>15</b> 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 AM Green Team 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon
<b>19</b> 8:00 AM Mass 9:15 AM Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evening Prayer	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Vestry Meets	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00 AM Green Team 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon
<b>26</b> Parents' Day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00 AM Mass 5:30 PM Mass & Healing + Potluck	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Woman's Bible Study	<b>31</b>	<b>7:00 AM Green Team</b> 5:00 PM Mass & Sermon
<b>Anniversaries-</b> James & Gladys Ingersoll-01, Bill & Connie Wagner-31						

June 2009							August 2009						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
28	29	30					30	31					