

Friday, July 6th attendance of the Holy Eucharist

One of the intrigues of General Convention has been in attending the daily worship. The pomp and circumstance that is afforded from our rich Church history and the way we embrace new cultures and their way of worship always leaves me in awe. A sense of serenity and that yes all can be good in this big bad world permeates my being. I feel like I can dream of a better and more tolerable environment for next generation. Yes, Bishop Curry we can achieve and exude that life giving love and liberation of life and indeed GO!

At Friday's Holy Eucharist Festival and UTO Ingathering Presiding Bishop Michael Curry presided, The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies preached, Bishop Andy Doyle, Episcopal Diocese of Texas celebrated, Bishop Mark Lattime, Episcopal Diocese of Alaska assisted. Reverend Clark Jennings spoke truth to power when she reminded us that we can be too diligent for our own good. She further added that when one spends too much time digging you may miss the jewels at the top. John 17:20, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message". When we feel the need to be calm ..., remember that Jesus prays for us. He's prayed earnestly for us because he has sensed a danger for us; when we too are vulnerable, we appeal fervently for either ourselves or for loved ones. At the end of those intercessions, it is difficult to not come out transformed; a struggle has been endured. Jesus' prayer for us is that we will be sent out sanctified in truth with humility, obtaining a gentleness and maintaining a spirit and bond in PEACE. Go! We must also recognize and appreciate that these may not be completed in our lifetimes but nonetheless Jesus is still praying for us.

According to The Episcopal Church website, organizers were charged by the presiding bishop with creating liturgies using authorized texts and also representative of the diversity of the Episcopal Church, the liturgy team reached out to more than 30 different groups and the church's ethnic missionaries. Each group was asked about their experience using the authorized Episcopal liturgies, what advice they would like to share, and for recommendations for music, preachers, or personnel. The liturgies developed for this General Convention reflect this listening process. On Friday we were able to hear part of the liturgy in Gwich'in, the language spoken by Indigenous people in the interior of Alaska. This translation is part of a UTO grant project in that diocese to translate the Book of Common Prayer into Modern Gwich'in.

In addition, at this gathering United Thank Offering donations from the various Provinces and their respective dioceses were offered:

Province I	\$ 1
Province II	\$ 4
Province III	\$ 7
Province IV	\$ 7
Province V	\$ 289,

Province VI	\$ 196,791.36
Province VII	\$ 263,595.99
Province VIII	\$ 328,120.89
Province IX	\$ 4

Representatives from Mexico, etc. ? \$ 3,738, Accumulated over period of 2015-2017

As is customary after the offerings are brought to the altar the Doxology is sung, never in my life have I ever felt so proud and honored to raise this hymn:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen***

Wonders are being performed all over our Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. And all we are being asked to do is to LOVE ourselves, LOVE each other and GO!