🧁 Happy Birthday, Book of Common Prayer!

First published: 1549 | Still shaping lives: Today

This year we celebrate the **Book of Common Prayer**—our spiritual companion, theological teacher, poetic guide, and worship anchor since **May 1549**, when the very first edition was published in England under Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.

📖 **It gave people worship in their own language.** Before the BCP, church services were in Latin. The 1549 Prayer Book was revolutionary—it put the liturgy in **English**, so everyday people could **understand and participate**.

🧵 **It stitched together ancient tradition and Reformation insight.** Cranmer wove together Scripture, the early Church, and new theological clarity into one graceful volume. It wasn't just a service book—it was a **reformation of the heart**.

🙏 **It's more than Sunday worship.** Daily prayers, sacraments, marriage vows, funeral rites, collects, psalms, pastoral care, theology—the Prayer Book holds the **rhythm of a whole Christian life**.

📚 **It's beautifully written.** Phrases like *"till death do us part," "ashes to ashes, dust to dust,"* and *"peace which passeth all understanding"* all come from the BCP. Its language has shaped English-speaking Christianity and literature for centuries.

🌍 **It keeps evolving—but stays grounded.** The Episcopal Church's current version is from **1979**, and while new revisions may come, the spirit of the BCP remains: **accessible, beautiful, sacramental, and rooted in prayer**.

So, raise a toast (or a chalice!) for this faithful friend of the Church. **Happy Birthday, BCP!** May we continue to pray what we believe—and believe what we pray.