

TEACH US TO PRAY CONTINUED

An interview with the Rev. Wiley Ammons, Rector of Redeemer Episcopal Church, Jacksonville.

- 4. Over the last few years, people have been asking Forward Movement to add a Compline podcast to their offerings. Compline is such a beautiful late evening service of prayers, canticles and psalms. Tell us more about Compline and the launch of the podcast that allows us to experience it.**

We were getting this request almost immediately after we started with the other offices. In a high anxiety and high intensity world, people were telling us that Compline was the office that grounded them, calmed them, and moved them toward gratitude at the close of the day. Early feedback we got about the Morning Office was the pace of the readings and prayers was rapid. This is admittedly true, because part of “no frills” was also trying to make sure the office fit (as best we can--- depending on reading length) into a certain timeframe. The Morning and Evening offices are intended to be “one-a-day” offices that you would choose between, depending on your daily prayer time. Compline doesn’t attempt to fill that need, but instead is a simpler, shorter, slower supplemental office for the close of the day.

- 5. If someone is reading about these worship opportunities for the first time, how do we gain access to the Morning and Evening Prayer podcasts and the Compline podcast?**

You can find all of the Forward Movement daily podcasts at ForwardMovement.org/podcasts, with some affiliate and past podcasts including one on Women and Angels of the Bible with our cathedral dean the Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll. Or you can search and subscribe in your favorite podcast app with the titles of the shows. “A Morning at the Office”, “An Evening at Prayer”, and “Compline: Late Evening Episcopal Prayer.”

- 6. In addition to the podcasts, you have been involved in other work for the Church as an aid and support of our corporate and private worship. In the Episcopal Church the texts of the lessons and Gospels we hear read in church are from the New Revised Standard Version. There is an update to this version being incorporated into the Church’s liturgy and you are involved in it. How so? And how big a project is this? Tell us what you have done so far and what work on the project has yet to be done?**

The NRSV translation of the Bible has been updated and The General Convention added the update to our list of scripture translations (Canon II.2.1) in 2022. While it’s not a wholesale new translation, according to the publisher the NRSVue *is* the NRSV. So, any new printings of the NRSV will be the NRSVue.

So, I have been working on a project to update the gospel book for use in worship on Sunday mornings to the updated translation. Redeemer started using the updated translation in February, so we're working through the liturgical year as we're developing the new worship tools.

I'm also working on digital resources that will make the update available for lectionary planning as churches gradually adopt the update. With Judy (my parish admin) as my editor, years A, B, and C of the gospel book are complete and we're working on the Proper Liturgies for Special Days section. I'm also working on the behind the scenes programming for digital tools. More on these projects as churches decide on adoption timelines and publishers work out licensing and printing.

7. Is there anything else you would like to add about the podcasts, the daily offices, Compline, the Forward Movement or revising our liturgical texts?

Forward Movement is one of the places where these sorts of creative endeavors are going on in the church and getting involved I have been delighted at all the creative efforts for liturgy and prayer in the church: digital, print, audio and otherwise. All of these efforts are in the service of connecting people to God wherever they can be found.

I want to express my gratitude to those who are helping us expand the voices on the podcasts, to those who pray with us each and every day and give us feedback about how we can be of additional help to the church. If you've never taken on the office as a daily prayer practice, with these new resources, it's easier than ever to get started. I want to invite you to an experience of the presence of God through a daily practice of prayer.