

LITURGICAL CHANGES

OVERVIEW

WHAT WAS SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN

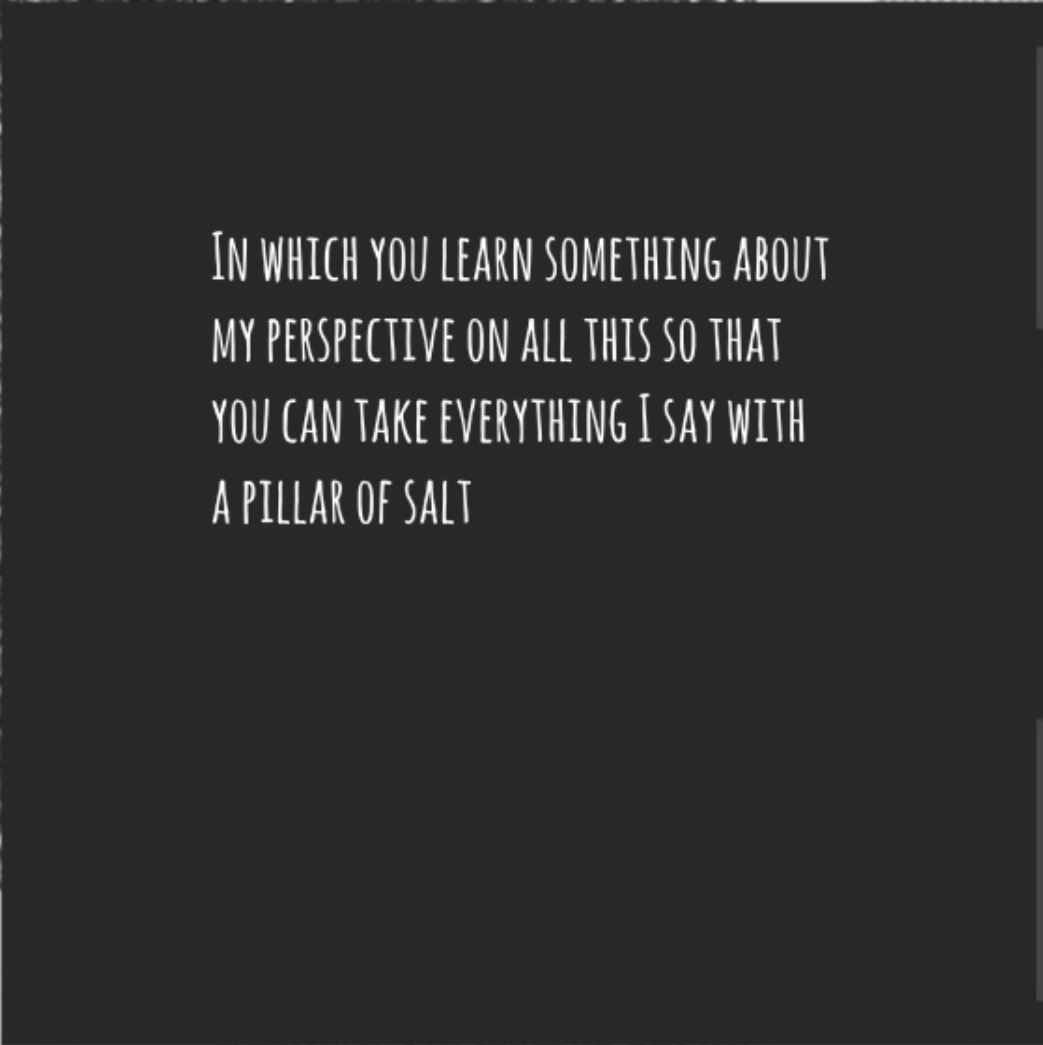
PRACTICALITIES

CONCLUDING
THOUGHTS

WHAT ACTUALLY
HAPPENED

An introduction to the
expansive-language liturgy
authorized for trial use by
General Convention 2018, in
the context of liturgical
revision

The Revd Canon Dr Thomas Williams | Cathedral Church of St Peter | 6 October 2019



IN WHICH YOU LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT
MY PERSPECTIVE ON ALL THIS SO THAT
YOU CAN TAKE EVERYTHING I SAY WITH
A PILLAR OF SALT

SOME CONCERNS
I TRY TO
UNDERSTAND

AND HOW I DON'T
ALTOGETHER
SUCCEED

MY PERSPECTIVE
(SUCH AS IT IS)

SOME CONCERNS I TRY TO UNDERSTAND

- The desire for less "gendered" language about God
- The aversion to patriarchal language about God
- The desire for more expansive imagery about God

The background of the slide is composed of three vertical sections. The left and right sections are light gray with a fine, dark, grid-like texture. The central section is a solid dark gray, providing a high-contrast background for the white text.

AND HOW I DON'T ALTOGETHER SUCCEED

- It's not that I don't think language is powerful.
- I just don't think it's powerful in quite the ways the contemporary discussion presupposes.
- There has been a profound change, not in the power of language, but in us.
- What I would plead for is not subtraction or substitution, but addition.

MY PERSPECTIVE (SUCH AS IT IS)

- The concerns that prompted these revisions are not my concerns.
- But I do think it's salutary to experience liturgies that are intended to remove obstacles to worship.
- So I'm neither an advocate for the revisions nor an opponent of them.

WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN

- The 2015 General Convention directed the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to "prepare a plan for the comprehensive revision of the current Book of Common Prayer" and present that plan to the 2018 GC.
- It also directed the SCLM to "prepare a plan for the comprehensive revision of the Hymnal 1982."

TOPIC 3

THE SCLM

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

THE SCLM

THE
DEPUTIES

THE
BISHOPS

THE SCLM

- The SCLM flat-out refused to prepare a plan for revision of the hymnal.
- As for Prayer Book revision, It offered two options. One was to get started immediately on full-scale revision. The other was to go slowly and examine how we're using what we already have.

THE DEPUTIES

- The House of Deputies voted fairly decisively (Clergy: 63/30/17; Lay: 69/26/15) to proceed with full-scale revision.
- The process would have led to a revised BCP in 2024, with final adoption in 2030.

THE BISHOPS

- The House of Bishops wasn't having it.
- They substituted an entirely new resolution that called for a Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision (TFLPBR), "memorialized" the 1979 Prayer Book, encouraged every diocese to create a liturgical commission, and basically punted on anything like details, timetables, and so forth.
- By that point it was so late in the Convention that it was either the Bishops' plan or nothing, so the Deputies concurred.
- Then the Deputies voted to authorize expansive-language versions of Rite Two, Prayers A, B, and D (Clergy: 78/19/12; Lay: 89/14/6), and the Bishops quickly agreed.

PRACTICALITIES

For the moment, then, what we have is a very modest piecemeal revision that proceeds largely by substitution and subtraction, rather than addition. These changes are authorized (not required, but permitted) for trial use until the 2060 Prayer Book is completed. We're going to experience and reflect on them for a season and then discern what we want to do with them going forward.

While we're at it, we're also going to try some other (very modest) new things that we hope will enrich our experience of worship together.

ENTRANCE
RITE AND
LESSONS

THE CREED

FROM THE
PRAYERS THROUGH
THE PEACE

THE GREAT
THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S
PRAYER

ENTRANCE RITE AND LESSONS

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious,
and undivided Trinity
People And blessed be God's reign, now and
for ever. Amen.

Introducing a new Song of Praise

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus
Christ according to Luke.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE CREED

Part One: God the Father

No changes

Part Two: God the Son

No changes until . . .

For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

And then we continue as we are accustomed.

Part Three: God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

And then we continue as we are accustomed.

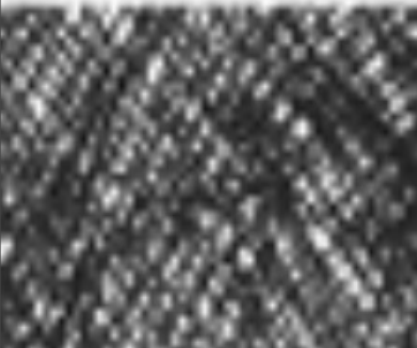
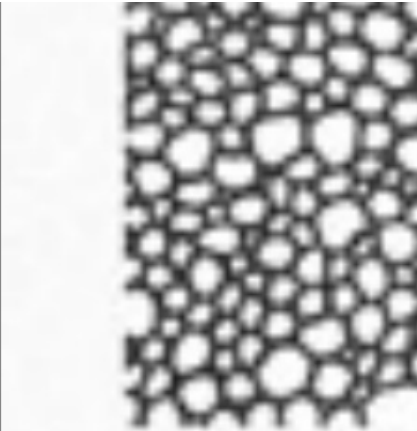


FROM THE PRAYERS THROUGH THE PEACE

We're going to use more varied language for the Prayers of the People (as the framers of the Prayer Book envisioned), but with a fixed response.

Leader God, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

We'll encourage space for people to add their own petitions.





THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Plus there are some minor changes in the celebrant's part.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant As our Savior Christ, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- I encourage you to experience the new language prayerfully and receptively. Give it some time to work.
- Let this also be an occasion to recover a sense of the *corporate* dimension of worship.
- As a practical matter, the better you know the liturgy, the more important it will be for you to pay close attention.
- Clergy, beware!

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