



Pre-Synod Prayer Resource 2022

Introduction

As we prepare our hearts and minds to gather for the upcoming 138th Synod, this booklet is offered as a tool for prayerful reflection. As mentioned at our Greater Chapter meetings, we will be breaking up into small groups following the Bishop's Charge to prayerfully discuss what we heard and what we believe the Holy Spirit is inviting us to be part of in this next season of life and ministry in our diocese.

The gift of discernment is one that is cultivated by taking time to sit and listen and wait on the Lord. Throughout Scripture, we see several examples of how God has spoken to His people – face-to-face in the Garden, the burning bush outside Sinai, a still-small voice for Elijah, a dove at Jesus' baptism, a vision at night for Paul – just to list a few.

Today, we know and trust that God continues to speak to us through the Scriptures, through our moments of reflection and through our interactions with others. It is a gift that is cultivated as we spend time with the Creator – just as an infant and family learn to communicate with each other.

As you prepare to attend Synod, we encourage you to find a few moments where you can be intentionally praying for this gathering and preparing our hearts and minds for our time together. You'll find three opportunities for a Lectio Divina (divine reading) reflection, using a different translation each time for John 21. Lectio Divina is an ancient practice for scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer. Traditionally, it is done by reading, meditating, praying, and contemplating.

As well, you'll find some written prayers and points for your use. When you do the Lectio Divina reflection, you might want to read it through a few times as you reflect on the questions.

Session 1

Lectio Divina John 21:1-14 NRSV

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.³ Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.⁵ Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.'⁶ He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake.⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.'¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.¹² Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord.¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Reflection Questions

*Where did your imagination stop?
Are there words, phrases, ideas that grasp you?
How do you think the Spirit of God might be nudging you?*

Session 2

Lectio Divina John 21:1-14 FNV

A while later, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) showed himself again to his followers by Lake of Circle of Nations (Sea of Galilee), *also called Sea of Rolling Water (Sea of Tiberias).*

² Stands on the Rock (Peter) along with other followers of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) had gathered there. With him were Looks Like His Brother (Thomas), Creator Gives (Nathanael) from Village of Reeds (Cana) in Circle of Nations (Galilee), the two sons of Gift of Creator (Zebedee), and two other followers.

³ Stands on the Rocks (Peter) said to them, "I am going fishing." They all agree and said, "Take us with you." So they took a canoe out onto the lake. *Under the light of the moon and stars* they worked hard all night. Again and again they threw out their nets and drew them back in – empty.

⁴ Just as the first light of day was dawning, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) came and stood on the shore. But they did not know it was he.

⁵ "Friends," he called out to them, "have you netted any fish?" "No!" they answered. ⁶ "Throw out your nets to the right of your canoe," he shouted to them. "You will find some fish there."

They did as he said, and the net was filled with so many fish they could not pull it into the canoe. ⁷ *He shows Goodwill (John)*, the much-loved follower of Creator Sets Free (Jesus), said to Stands on the Rock (Peter), "It is our Wisdomkeeper!"

Stands on the Rock (Peter) had taken off his outer garment to fish. He put it back on and jumped into the water. ⁸ The shore was not far, so the others made their way in, dragging the net full of fish behind the canoe.

They came to the shore and stepped out of the canoe. ⁹ They saw a warm fire wish fish cooking over the coals and some frybread to eat. ¹⁰ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) *looked up from cooking and* said, "bring me some of the fish you caught." ¹¹ Stands on the Rock (Peter) climbed into the canoe and pulled the net to shore. The fish were large, and they counted them – one hundred and fifty-three in all! But even with some many fish the net did not tear.

¹² Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, "Let us eat." They all sat down to eat, but no one dared ask, "Who are you?" They knew it must be their Wisdomkeeper.¹³ He took the frybread and gave some to each of them, along with a piece of fish. ¹⁴ This was third time he had shown himself to them after coming back to life from the dead.

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Reflection Questions

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Session 3

Lectio Divina John 21:1-14 NIV

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.^[C] ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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Prayers for Synod

Almighty and everliving God,
give wisdom and understanding,
to the members of the Synod of this Diocese.
Teach them in all things
to seek first your honour and glory.
May they perceive what is right
have courage to pursue it
and grace to accomplish it,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia

Almighty God, giver of all and ruler of all that is seen and unseen; we ask for continual divine grace to your Church and especially to this Session of Diocesan Synod. May we walk in your way, leading lives worthy of our calling, in humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love and maintaining the unity of your Spirit in the bond of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery,
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence
carry out the work of our salvation:
and let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up
and things which had grown old are being made new
and that all things are returning to perfection
through him from whom they took their origin,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gelasian Sacramentary (8th century)

Remember, Lord, what you have wrought in us
and not what we deserve,
and as you have called us to your service
make us worthy of our calling
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

adapted from the 1928 Prayer Book, Church of England

Remember in Prayer

The Synod Executive:

Chair:	Archbishop David Edwards (Debbie)
Dean:	The Very Rev. Geoffrey Hall (Kelley)
Secretary:	The Rev. David Peer (Minna)
Treasurer:	Ms. Heather Harris-Jones (Brian)
Chancellor:	Mr. David G. Bell
Vice-Chancellor:	Dr. Kelly VanBuskirk, Q.C. (Cynthia)

Planning and Arrangements Team:

Co-Chairs:	The Rev. David Peer (Minna) Mrs. Susan Jack (Stephane)
Agenda:	Archbishop David Edwards (Debbie) Mr. Shawn C. Branch
Credentials:	Mrs. Cheryl Jacobs (Peter)
Nominating:	Mr. Robert Taylor
Resolutions:	Mr. David G. Bell
Tech Support:	Mr. Peter Jacobs (Cheryl) Mr. David Wilson (Jean)
Worship:	The Very Rev. Geoffrey Hall (Kelley)
Arrangements:	The Rev. John Galbraith (Jackie)

- All the volunteers helping with the setup, hospitality, and support.
- The Cathedral Sexton (Mr. Ashley Swim), Music Director (Mr. Thomas Gonder) and Administrator (Mrs. Kirsten McKnight).
- Our small group facilitators and those helping to prepare the response to the Bishop's Charge.
- All members of the Synod.