

that among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May you be ever grateful to God the Father for his creation of us and of all our world in its immeasurable richness. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen

People of St Edwards
Archbishop Douglas Hambidge –Homilist
The Venerable Elizabeth Northcott – Presider
The Rev Brian Vickers – Regional Dean

Adapted from Thomas G. Simons, Holy People, Holy Place: Rites for the Church's House (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1998), p. 100-101.

General Convention of The Episcopal Church, 2003, The Book of Occasional Services, 2003, (New York: Church Publishing), p. 319-321.

A Liturgy for the Secularizing of St Edward's Anglican Church



**Saturday October 7, 2017
11:00 am**

The Gathering of the People -

Presider My brothers and sisters in Christ, we are gathered here in this place that has rooted and grounded us in Gods love. A place in which we, and those who have gone before us, have celebrated the mysteries of our faith, shared our joys and sorrows, and encountered our Lord in word, sacrament and one another. As we gather to remember and pray together here for the last time, let us come before Gods presence with thanksgiving for the grace bestowed upon us and upon our forebears, saying, "***blessed be God forever***".

Presider For the baptisms celebrated here,
Response **Blessed be God forever.**

Presider For those times in which we were forgiven,
Response Response **comforted and consoled here,
Blessed be God for ever.**

Presider For the power of Gods word proclaimed here in
Response scripture and in preaching,
Blessed be God for ever.

Presider For the prayers said here for healing, and the
Response sick who have come here for comfort,
Blessed be God for ever.

Presider For those times in which we gathered here for
the sacred banquet; for the Easters, Sundays,
and holy days on which we worshipped

Secularizing a Consecrated Building

Presider We who are gathered here know that this building, which has been consecrated and set apart for the ministry of Gods holy Word and Sacraments, will no longer be used in this way, but will be used for other purposes.

To many of us this building has been hallowed by cherished memories, and we know that some of us will suffer a sense of loss. We pray that they will be comforted by the knowledge that the presence of God is not tied to any place or building. It is intention of the diocese that the congregation that worshipped here will not be deprived of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The Bishop's Declaration is read.

Presider The Lord be with you.
Response **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Lord God, in your goodness you once accepted to your honour and glory this building, now secularized. Receive our praise and thanksgiving for the blessings, help and comfort which you bestowed upon your people in this place. Continue, we pray, your many mercies in your Church, that we may be conscious at all times of your unchanging love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation;

as you sent those before us, to share Christ's love with all the world. We praise and thank you for the grace and favour you have shown us in the Holy Sacrament of the altar, and with all the saints at an eternal table.

Lord, in your love, **Hear our Prayer.**

Almighty God, whose Word we hear proclaimed today as our forebears did in former days: Live among us through the Gospel and the stories of all your faithful people in history. Through the preaching of your Word teach us, call us, and guide us on our way. And here we praise and thank you most especially for the Word made Flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has been and will be, a lamp unto our path.

Lord, in your love, **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, to whose glory this church was built with hands of love, with sweat and with toil: As this house provided us with a sacred place to honour and worship you, we give our thanks to all those whose sacrifices and gifts manifested for us the beauty of holiness for many years. We thank you, O Lord, for giving vision to those who went before us: readers, servers, musicians, and many others whose contributions to our worship of you gave us a glimpse of heaven. Today, O Lord, we return this place to you. We give it with the same spirit of love that led the builders of this place. And we pray, O God, that you will honour and bless those who come after us, in the way you have blessed us in the past.

Lord, in your love, **Hear our Prayer.**

O Lord, the life of the faithful, the glory of the saints, and the delight of those who trust in you: Hear our supplications and thanksgivings, and quench, we pray, the thirst of those who long for your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

faithfully; for the confirmations, ordinations, feasts of saints and martyrs celebrated here; for the marriages witnessed here, and the funerals held here in hope,

Response **Blessed be God for ever.**

Presider O God in whom we find our refuge and our home: though your greatness surpasses that of any temple made by human hands, you graciously provided from your abundance this place in which we and our forbears met your divine presence. Protect us as we now take leave of it, and lead us to a new assembly where, with all your saints, we may praise and adore your Holy Name. This we ask in the name of your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Response **And also with you.**

Hymn: *Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria Alleluia Alleluia*

(We join in the singing of "Gloria" CP 376)

Presider Let us pray.

The Collect

Almighty God, watchful and caring, our source and our end: We, with the saints of generations past, have come to praise your name and give you thanks for the gifts of

grace received here in the Church of St Edwards. Be present, wherever we may be, to guide and to care for us, to illumine and to bless us. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from John 15:12-17

Homily – Archbishop Douglas Hambidge

The Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

In peace let us pray to the Lord saying, **Hear our Prayer.**

Almighty God, who gathers us here at St Edwards Church today as you gathered our ancestors in the faith: Fill our hearts as you filled theirs; hear our confessions, forgive our sins, lift our sorrows and made us glad. We praise and thank you for the fellowship and mutual care given and received here, for the ministry and mission undertaken, and for all that you have been and will be in our life together.
Lord, in your love, **Hear our Prayer.**

Almighty God, at whose altar we are welcomed today as our Mothers and Fathers were welcomed: Give us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet; unite us with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and with one another. Strengthen us for mission and for our daily lives; and send us out,