



Dear people of All Saints,

This autumn brings to All Saints uncertainty and bewilderment as all the Anglican and Lutheran communities of faith, struggle to discern what an Anglican and Lutheran presence will look like in the very near future here in Peterborough.



Tremendous work has been done by a deeply committed group of lay people from all five parishes. The findings by this group has led to intense discussion in all of our parishes. They knew from the outset of their mandate that the findings would lead all of us into uncharted waters or better yet maybe an Exodus journey where we have to experience a letting go of the known and predictable with an understanding that status quo would not lead to renewal in our parishes. We are all under stress and face a precarious future if we keep on going down the well-worn path of ages past.

Many of you have asked me what the future holds. I do not know except to say that if we have the vision, the courage and faith in a God that is always with us we will move into a new expression of being an Anglican and Lutheran in Peterborough.

I have been with you now for four years. Our years together have not been easy ones. That is a reality due to our challenging situation at All Saints. We are financially in a precarious situation. Even with our wonderful music programme we all know our numbers on a Sunday continue to shrink. Various forms of renewal like being a missional church where we reach out to the community has brought much bewilderment, fear, hurt, and anger to the forefront for many of you. On the other hand many of you see these ministries as an opportunity for All Saints to renew itself and find a way forward into the future. The bottom line is that for all of us this is not an easy time.

However, as we move towards Thanksgiving, we have much to be grateful for – a wonderful country where we are at peace in a world fraught with much violence. We are able to worship together with friends and neighbours who are there for us in our hours of need. We experience a wonderful liturgy unique to the Anglican communion which allows us to adapt in a creative and open way to the changes that challenge us. Our willingness

to question, embrace people and offer a radical welcome is something to be grateful for.



Enclosed is a thanksgiving envelope for you to return to the parish as an expression of gratitude for abundant food, and peaceful governance in Canada. Thankfulness to a God who is with us during our joys and

grief. Let us give thanks to God for it is meet and right so to do.

Please read the article about 12 Marks of Healthy Church Behaviour below which hopefully gives us all a sense of purpose and hopefulness as we continue to move forward here at All Saints. If we can adhere to these 12 practical marks then we can move forward through the quickly changing situation here in Peterborough.

Blessing

Fr Geoff

Today we Remember Tomorrow

Bill Lewellis, Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem USA

Some 20 to 25 years ago, my onetime colleague Canon Jane Teter was about to preside at our weekly Eucharist at Diocesan House. It was September 13. I remember the day, though not the year, because I associate it with the Feast of the Holy Cross, September 14.

Jane explained that on this ordinary day of the church calendar, we would use the Holy Cross readings and prayers.

As she sensed herself getting caught in a circular explanation, she escaped with, "So ... today we remember tomorrow."

The words sang. They summed up for me what we do every time we celebrate Eucharist.

TODAY ... any day, any time.

WE ... whether three or 300 ... we ... do this thing together ...

REMEMBER ... That's the heart of it. We make eucharist by remembering. We give thanks by remembering the acts of God through the multi-millennial history of our universe ... and the fourscore years of our lives ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

TOMORROW ... Imagine. Remembering tomorrow! God's promises. Our hope ... not wishes ... hope.

In our eucharistic remembrance, always and everywhere giving thanks, gently healing our past and calmly embracing our future, we remember tomorrow.