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# AMEN

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an occasional publication of the Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of New York  
liturgy.diocesen.org ☒ Advent 2003

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## General Convention 2003

Contrary to the impression one might have received from CNN, General Convention was not only about sexuality, and a great deal of work that touches on our liturgical life was undertaken. This issue provides a summary of matters of most import to parish life and liturgy.

### Hands on confirmation

Resolution A044 amended Canon I.17.1 to specify that the ritual act for confirmation and reception is the laying on of hands. Resolution A085 clarified that members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be received rather than re-confirmed.

### Bottom-Up Liturgical Development

In a recognition that much liturgical development takes place at the parish and diocesan level, the Convention authorized an exploration of how liturgy emerges from the cultural milieu of the baptized, and invited further conversation and exploration of the bishop's role in the emergence of new liturgical forms.

In a similar way, Bishop Sisk would like to offer the Liturgical Commission as a clearing house for new ideas and questions, and as a forum to explore, develop, and share worship forms that arise out of cultural, social, or situational circumstances. One example is the material that emerged in response to the attacks of 9/11; another is the custom of Blessing the Animals, which many parishes participate in but for which no single authorized rite exists.

The Commission would like to invite suggestions and submissions and questions along these lines, and will do its best to try to provide feedback and share the wealth of creativity that exists in this great diocese.

## Continued use of Enrichments and Alternatives

Convention approved continued trial use of *Enriching Our Worship* Volumes 1 & 2 and the Revised Common Lectionary, by permission of the diocesan bishop. Bishop Sisk wishes to grant general (although not wholesale) permission for the use of these resources, with two provisos:

- First, he would like parishes using these resources to register that fact with the Liturgical Commission, and provide feedback on how the materials are used and received by the congregations.
- Second, he asks that parishes using the RCL revert to the BCP lectionary for his visitations to the parish. Alerts to *all* guest preachers are in order!

In addition, Church Planting Liturgies were developed and will be published in Spanish, French and English, as will all future materials.

### New Lay Ministry Canon

In the new Title III Canon on Lay Ministries, the old title "Lay Reader" is finally gone, replaced by the more accurately descriptive "Worship Leader." In addition, the two forms of lay Eucharistic ministry are now clearly separated: the Eucharistic Minister (who assists in the distribution of communion in the liturgy) and the Eucharistic Visitor (charged with taking communion to the sick and shut in after the celebration.) Guidelines and forms are being updated and prepared for this change; keep an eye on the mailbox.

### Compromise, Recognition, and Commitment

In a compromise resolution on same-sex unions the Convention admitted to not being of one mind on "how best to care pastorally for those who intend to live in monogamous, non-celibate unions; and what is, or should be required, permitted, or prohibited by the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church concerning the blessing of the same." At the same time the Convention reaffirmed that "such relationships exist throughout the Church" and the expectation that "such relationships will be characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love

which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God.” Moreover, the Convention recognized “that local faith communities are operating within the bounds of our common life as they explore and experience liturgies celebrating and blessing same-sex unions” and committed itself to further prayer and study, and to maintenance of communion “despite our diversity of opinion and, among dioceses, a diversity of pastoral practice with the gay men and lesbians among us.”

### **Saints above**

In addition to authorizing the continued revision of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, Convention gave final approval to Enmegahbowh, Florence Nightingale and Philip the Deacon, and initial approval for:

#### ***January 3. Ordination of Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman priest in the Anglican Communion, 1944.***

Gracious God, we thank you for calling Florence Li Tim-Oi, much-beloved daughter, to be the first woman to exercise the office of priest in our Communion; By the grace of your Spirit inspire us to follow her example, serving your people with patience and happiness all our days, and witnessing in every circumstance to our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 116:1-2; Galatians 3:23-28; Luke 10:1-9

*Preface of a saint (2)*

#### ***February 17. Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda and Martyr, 1977***

O God, whose Son the Good Shepherd laid down his life for the sheep: We give you thanks for your faithful shepherd, Janani Luwum, who after his Savior's example gave up his life for the people of Uganda. Grant us to be so inspired by his witness that we make no peace with oppression, but live as those who are sealed with the cross of Christ, who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 119:41-48; Ecclesiasticus 4:20-28; John 12:24-32

*Preface of Holy Week*

#### ***September 22. Philander Chase, Bishop of Ohio and of Illinois, 1852***

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith: We give you heartfelt thanks for the pioneering spirit of your servant Philander Chase, and for his zeal in opening new frontiers for the ministry of your Church. Grant us grace to minister in Christ's name in every place, led by bold witnesses to the Gospel of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 108:1-6 or 16:5-11; Isaiah 44:1-6,8; Luke 9:1-6

*Preface of a saint (1)*

#### ***November 6. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1944.***

O God of light and love, you illumined your Church through the witness of your servant William Temple: Inspire us, we pray, by his teaching and example, that we may rejoice with courage, confidence and faith in the Word made flesh, and may be led to establish that city which has justice for its foundation and love for its law; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 3:7-12; John 1:9-18

*Preface of the Epiphany*

#### ***November 22. Clive Staples Lewis, Apologist and spiritual writer, 1963.***

O God of searing truth and surpassing beauty, we give you thanks for Clive Staples Lewis whose sanctified imagination lights fires of faith in young and old alike; Surprise us also with your joy and draw us into that new and abundant life which is ours in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 139:1-9; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 16:7-15

*Preface of a saint (3)*

Hint: clip this page and keep it in your copy of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*.

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