

Orienting Prayer Practices and the Five Mission Priorities

Goal: Incorporate our mission priorities more deeply into the rich tradition of prayer and worship already available to us in Episcopal tradition

- We have a rich variety of prayer practice in the Episcopal Church.
- Practices do not have to be “new” but could instead be a way of going deeper through spiritual practices already in place.

Examples of Prayer Practices

Form congregational prayer groups around Daily Office services including Morning Prayer and Compline

- The Book of Common Prayer has the potential to ground us in our tradition and focus our attention on the work of the Diocese’s mission priorities.
- Daily Office as foundation around which the mission strategy priorities can be more deeply oriented
- Option: “Scavenger Hunt” for Collects, Canticles, other readings that line up well with Mission Priorities
- Availability of educational resources to train lay leaders to lead Daily Office services

Form silent/meditative prayer groups committed to orient toward the contemplation of the five mission priorities.

- Quiet contemplation on a mission goal as a part of a group can be powerful!

Inclusion of the New Prayer for Mission in litany form

- Provides continuity with the past diocesan mission strategy while we strive in the present toward becoming Beloved Community
- Prayer can be incorporated into congregational worship at various points throughout the liturgical year.

Additional thoughts:

- Some of these practices might involve the entire congregation, and some might include only small groups.
- Some might (and probably would) be online.
- Forms of prayer can take many forms, some of which are already practiced regularly in many congregations.
- Congregations can choose practices for which there is energy in their communities.

Re-centering and Re-envisioning the Eucharist

- As a sacramental community, Eucharistic worship is central to our lives as Episcopalians.
- The Eucharist remains our primary ritual orientation toward God's loving grace.
- The Eucharist orients us toward the reality of the real presence of God's grace in the world.
- Room for growth and innovation while remaining committed to our traditional orientation toward the Eucharist as central in our worship life.
- Commitment to exploring how the sacrament of the Eucharist can bring us closer to Becoming Beloved Community

Questions for Eucharistic Exploration:

- Eucharist=Thanksgiving: How can we share that message in a manner that is welcoming and aligns with our Five Mission Priorities?
- How does the presence of grace in the Eucharist help us connect with those who are not part of our community and who may not be familiar/comfortable with our practice of worship?
- How do we reorient our communities to the centrality of the Eucharist when the pandemic prevents us from gathering in person?
- Can expanding options for online Eucharistic worship enhance the effectiveness of the Eucharist in our lives and in the world?
- Can we understand the Eucharist as a point of entry for Christian formation and not only as the culmination of a process of catechesis?
- How does our witness of Christ in the Eucharist extend outward as we attempt to fulfill the goals of the Diocesan mission strategy in the world?

Post-Communion Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer:

- "Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart..."
- Invites us to live the reality that the grace present at the Eucharistic table in our church communities is also present in our local, regional, and world communities