

March 20, 2020

Friends in Christ,

The Archbishop of Canterbury called the Church of England to a national day of prayer on March 22nd, 2020 inviting everyone to light a candle in their window or porch at 7 p.m. and pray throughout the day.

There did not seem to be enough time to get that message to everyone in Canada – so I am inviting you to combine that invitation to prayer with the one sent out previously for Lent 5 from the Primates' Meeting.

We were called to pray in repentance on Lent 5 for the ways in which we have shared in the pain of division in our Communion – an acknowledgement that wherever we have stood on the issues at the heart we have inadvertent and at times deliberate actions caused hurt. Resources for such prayers may be found at: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/355990/a-season-of-repentance-en.pdf>)

Then we are called to pray for the impact of COVID19 on the whole Communion – no part of our world will be left untouched and in some parts, including parts of our own country, the health care systems are not in place to provide adequate care or protection. We pray for our siblings in Christ! Prayers for the Communion may be found at: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/356026/praying-with-one-voice-en.pdf>)

Finally we are called to pray for the whole human family affected in this time of crisis – especially those who are sacrificially caring for us – health care workers and those who ensure we have food and medicines. You will have many such prayers available to you in our own prayer books and online.

Please share this link: <https://www.anglican.ca/news/a-national-call-to-prayer-on-lent-5/30025949/> through your own media channels; Facebook, Twitter and e-mail lists – to help us pray together on March 29th. I will be lighting a candle and offering prayers live on Facebook at 7 p.m. EDT for any who wish to join me.

I am especially praying for each of you – you are on the front lines of leadership to offer hope, encouragement and perseverance in what will be a very long haul. Please take care of yourselves – allowing time for your own restoration and rest.

We are not alone – we are accompanied by God's grace and Holy Spirit – and the great cloud of witnesses and saints who have endured trials as difficult as this and more.

May God's peace be with you,

+Linda

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