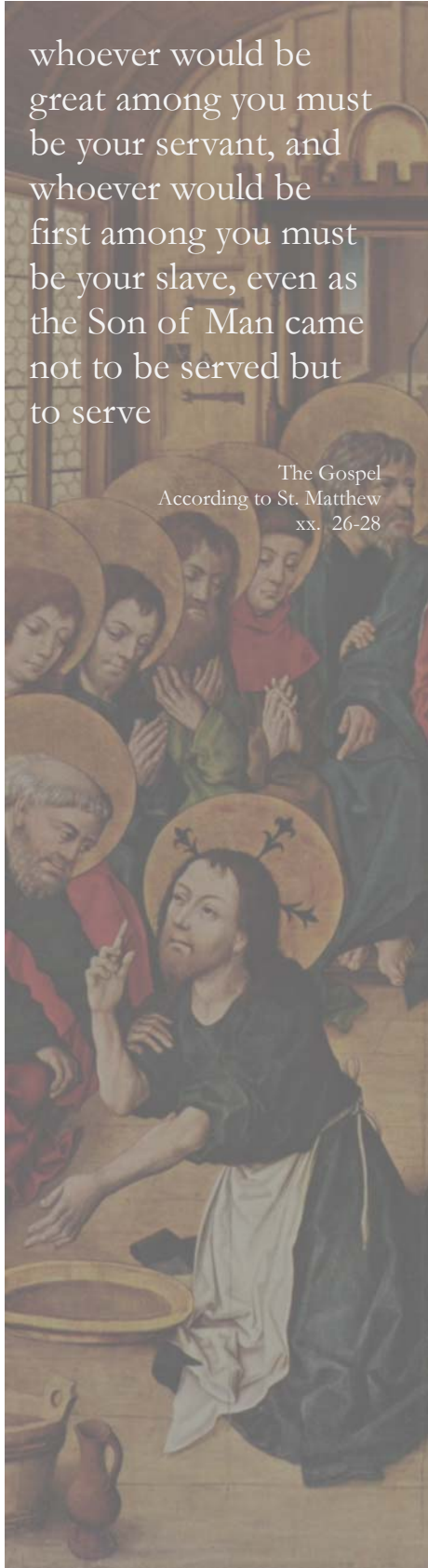


THE ORTHODOX ANGLICAN CHURCH

whoever would be
great among you must
be your servant, and
whoever would be
first among you must
be your slave, even as
the Son of Man came
not to be served but
to serve

The Gospel
According to St. Matthew
xx. 26-28



Today is the sixth anniversary of my consecration to the episcopate. I have used this weekend to reflect on these six years. Mostly this weekend I have thought about how I can avoid making the mistakes that I have made as Presiding Bishop. I am grateful to God for all of the progress that we have made together in the Orthodox Anglican Church and the Orthodox Anglican Communion. God is working in and through the Orthodox Anglican Church and I desperately want to be part of this movement of the Spirit, not a hindrance to it.

I am pleased to report that the 54th General Convention of the Orthodox Anglican Church held on 22-23 of June in Kannapolis, North Carolina was a great success. It was well attended, we added four new priests to the jurisdiction, had great speakers, delicious food, and blessed fellowship. During the business meeting we elected a new National Council, we elected three Board members for St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary, and we approved a budget.



Holy Communion at General Convention June 22, AD 2018

Charlotte area is a nice central location for us to have a gathering, but St. Philip's parish can only seat 40 people. So, over the years we have used other facilities. Our host parishes for convention this year were Center Grove Lutheran Church and Resurrection Anglican Church, these two congregations share the same building. I think everyone that attended the convention were blown away by the beauty of the facility and the hospitality shown to us. Over the years other churches have in their kindness and graciousness allowed us to use their facilities. In this case, Center Grove Lutheran and Resurrection Anglican were not only kind and gracious to us, I felt that we were truly embraced and loved by fellow believers. They provided a most excellent example of Christian hospitality.

I have used the month of July to prepare for upcoming Liturgical seminars and a Fall schedule that should keep me very busy. Please continue to remember me in your prayers. I ask that you pray for my safety as I travel, and wisdom to lead God's people and not make too many mistakes.

May God bless you,
‡ *Thomas E. Gordon*



Left: The congregation at Holy Communion 6/22



Below: Kneeling for the prayer of confession



The Revd Father Steve Smith distributes Holy Communion



Above: Father Hess led Morning Prayer, Father Young gave the sermon



The new priests hands are anointed with oil and wrapped in a linen cloth



The Revd Father James Ward is made a Canon of Honour



Confirmation of Nancy Jones

“The Orthodox Anglican Church” and “The Orthodox Anglican Communion” are Registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

An excerpt from:



MY PERSPECTIVE ON WOMEN PRIESTS

By Alice Linsley

It is now apparent that Episcopal Church's departure from the faith set forth in Scripture, in the writings of the Church Fathers, and in the Book of Common Prayer has led to a total loss of spiritual authority. It is an empty vessel. This was evident to catholic-minded Anglicans even before 1975, the year that the eleven women were ordained in Philadelphia. Steeped in the unified witness of Holy Tradition and Holy Scripture, these traditionalists were clear about where the line is drawn, and they confronted corruption in the Church in the same spirit as Martin Luther who proclaimed in the words of Psalm 16:6: "The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me."

Why should the line be drawn at the Priesthood? A right understanding of the priestly office is necessary if we are to rebuild the foundations. The royal priesthood of Jesus Christ is the foundation. Understanding the antecedents of the priesthood of the Church is essential. We cannot rebuild unless we know where the walls were and how they were sited and aligned. We cannot restore a firm foundation unless we understand the work of our ancestors in the faith who lived in what is today less than "Merry England."

The Church is divided, yet there is but one Priesthood - that of Jesus Christ, the Eternal Priest - whose priesthood is given to the Church. The priesthood is a unique gift and it speaks of Jesus Christ, so we must get it right or we send a false Christological message to the world, such as that delivered by Presiding Bishop Curry at the Royal Wedding.

For some Anglicans a woman priest reflects a pagan worldview and their use of the word "priestess" is intended to underscore the danger of this innovation. For a time, I resented being called a "priestess" by the clergy that I most admired. I thought they were being ungracious, yet they were telling the truth.

To Anglicans who ordain women, the term "priestess" seems insulting to the gifted and devoted women who serve in their churches. There was a time when I felt insulted, but after years of study I now believe that attempts to justify women priests are hollow. There is no justification for this radical shift, and I am committed to resisting it, and speaking against it.

It is time for orthodox Anglicans to rebuild the foundations. We must be unified in our efforts so that the walls of our New Jerusalem will be stronger than ever. It is fitting that these words should be spoken to you: the first haven for orthodox Anglicans; a body committed to faithfully proclaiming Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament.

The Anglican heritage is a beautiful one. True Anglicans uphold the authority of Scripture, catholic orders, the integrity of the male priesthood, apostolic doctrine and discipline, and the instruction of the Fathers. We have nothing about which to be ashamed. Were we defending something false and unholy, the devil would not expend such great energy to destroy us!

The rest of the transcript of her address to the 54th General Convention of the Orthodox Anglican Church may be found here: <https://college-ethics.blogspot.com/2018/07/my-perspective-on-women-priests.html?m=1>



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Below: The Great Commission Award winners



The Helpmate Award winner, Mrs Resa Darnell



Right: The Revd Dr Joshua Gilliam addresses the convention 6/23.



Right: Mrs Donna Young addresses the convention 6/23.



The Cornerstone Award winners



Left: Archbishop Gordon leads the 54th General Convention meeting.

Right: The Holy Gospel is read 6/22.

