

# Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Sydney

## 2nd Session of the 45th Synod **Business Paper: Tuesday 17 October 2000**

*(Page references are to the Standing Committee's Report - see Standing Order 65 for ordinance procedures.)*

**Members of Synod are asked to identify themselves each time they speak.**

**1. Prayers will be read by Bishop Robert Forsyth: see attached**

**2. Minutes of 16 October 2000**

**3. Orders of the Day**

**(1) Anglican Counselling Centre and the Rev Michael Corbett-Jones**

Synod -

- (a) gives praise to God for the outstanding work of the Anglican Counselling Centre over half a century, and for the people whose lives have been blessed through the ministry of the Centre;
- (b) thanks the Rev Michael Corbett-Jones for his leadership of the Centre over the past 20 years, and for his part in the ongoing development of the Centre's ministry;
- (c) acknowledges that many people have been hurt as a result of the recent investigation and restructuring of the Centre, and expresses sorrow at the hurt that has been experienced;
- (d) prays for God's blessing on Michael Corbett-Jones in his future ministry, and on all who have not been able to continue their counselling ministries under the new structure; and
- (e) urges *Anglicare* to strongly support the important ministry of Christian counselling which is has taken on, and to give its full encouragement to all who are involved in this important ministry.

*(To be taken at 3.20 pm)*

*(The Rev Paul Weaver/Bishop Robert Forsyth)*

**(2) Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000: Committee Stage (continued)**

That the Synod resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Synod to further consider the text of the bill for the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000.

*(Page 249 and Supplementary Report)* *(The Rev Phillip Jensen/Mr Neil Cameron)*

*(To be taken at 4.30 pm. Synod has agreed to consider this bill until it is completed. Synod has agreed to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the 3rd reading to be taken today.)*

**(3) Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000: Committee Stage (continued)**

That the Synod resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Synod to further consider the text of the bill for the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2000.

*(Page 234 - to be taken after 3(2))*

*(The Rev Hugh Cox)*

*(Dr Barry Newman has given notice of a motion to suspend so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent the bill from passing at this session.)*

**(4) Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

*(Page 247 to be taken after 3(3))*

*(The Rev Bruce Southwell)*

**(5) Doctrine and Principles of the Anglican Church**

Synod supports the Sydney Standing Committee in its request to the Primates -

- (a) to affirm in the face of current denials -
- (i) the uniqueness of Jesus as the only name for obtaining salvation;
  - (ii) our redemption through his full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world whereby he reconciled his Father to us;
  - (iii) the resurrection of Jesus in which he took again his body with flesh, bones and all things appertaining to the perfection of human nature; and
  - (iv) the sufficiency and authority of Scripture; and
- (b) to reject current advocacy of -
- (i) heterosexual immorality; and
  - (ii) homosexual practice.

*(See pages 26-28 - to be taken at 7.00 pm)*

(The Rev Dr Glenn Davies/Deaconess Margaret Rodgers)

- (6) Synod respectfully requests that the Archbishop not authorise any person to preach or participate in the leadership of church services in the Diocese of Sydney who will not give assent to the doctrines and principles advocated in motion 3(5).

*(See pages 26-28 - to be taken after 3(5))*

(The Rev Dr John Woodhouse)

- (7) Synod respectfully requests that the Sydney representatives to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia ask the General Synod at its 2001 meeting to ask all Australian Diocesan Bishops not to authorise any person to preach or participate in the leadership of church services in their dioceses who will not give assent to the doctrines and principles advocated in motion 3(5).

*(See pages 26-28 - to be taken after 3(6))*

(The Rev Dr John Woodhouse)

**(8) Synod Elections Ordinance 2000: 3rd reading**

That the bill for the Synod Elections Ordinance 2000 be read a third time.

*(Page 278)*

(Mr Mark Payne)

*(Mr Mark Payne has given notice of a motion to suspend so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent the bill from passing at this session.)*

**(9) Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000: 3rd Reading**

That the bill for the Conduct of Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 be read a third time.

*(Page 146)*

(Mr Neil Cameron)

*(Mr Neil Cameron has given notice of a motion to suspend so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent the bill from passing at this session. Also see motions 4(19) and 4(20) which are proposed to be moved when the 3rd reading is called.)*

**(10) Synod 2001 (Amendment of Procedure) Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Synod 2001 (Amendment of Procedure) Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.

*(Page 272)*

(Mr Mark Payne)

*(Mr Mark Payne has given notice of a motion to suspend so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent the bill from passing at this session.)*

**(11) Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance 2000: Committee Stage**

That the Synod resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Synod to further consider the text of the bill for the Tribunal Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance 2000.

*(Page 211)*

(Dr Ann Young/Archdeacon Geoff Huard)

**(12) Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(See *Supplementary Report tabled on 9 October*) (Mr Philip Gerber)

**(13) Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 304) (The Rev Dr Glenn Davies)

**(14) Church Discipline Ordinance 1996 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Church Discipline Ordinance 1996 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 139) (Mr Garth Blake)

**(15) Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975 Amendment Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 127) (Dr Laurie Scandrett)

**(16) General Synod - Constitution of A Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the General Synod - Constitution of A Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Adopting Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 184) (Mr Robert Tong)

**(17) Regional Councils Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Regional Councils Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 267) (Dr Kim Hawtrey)

**(18) Parish Relationships Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Parish Relationships Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 238) (Archdeacon Trevor Edwards)

**(19) Incapacity Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Incapacity Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 205) (Mr Bill Nicholson/Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones)

**(20) Ministry Ordinance 2000: 2nd Reading**

That the bill for the Ministry Ordinance 2000 be read a second time.  
(Page 214) (Dr Barry Newman)

#### **4. Motions**

**(1) Role and function of archdeacons**

In light of the appointment of a layman as Assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong, the Synod requests that the Standing Committee appoint a committee to investigate the role and function of archdeacons and to report to the Synod in 2001 with suggestions about how the office may best develop and how the identified roles and functions may best be carried out.

(Canon Jim Ramsay)

(2) **Diocesan files on clergy**

In keeping with contemporary understanding of fair dealing and openness, Synod requests that arrangements be made to enable a member of the clergy in the Diocese to inspect all material held on file about that member in the Diocesan records, with a view to correcting error and challenging any matters of judgement by inserting his or her own file note.

(The Rev Phillip Jensen)

(3) **Homosexual “marriage” and ordination**

Synod -

(a) appreciates the work done by the Faculty of Moore College in publishing a volume of *Explorations* entitled *Theological and Pastoral responses to Homosexuality* (1994); and

(b) since this matter will be frequently before the Church in the next decade - requests that the Faculty of Moore College, through the Principal, keep the Christian public informed of the matters under debate and, in particular, brief the General Synod members on the issues before the next meeting of that body.

(The Rev Stephen Gibson/The Rev Roger Kay)

(4) **Office of regional bishops**

Synod requests that the Archbishop and the Standing Committee give consideration to the appointment of Regional Bishops for a term of office of about 10 years, and thereafter subject to annual extensions, with a view to-

(a) appointing some younger bishops to the episcopal team; and

(b) developing a culture which facilitates the opportunity for bishops to return to parish ministry after serving their episcopal term.

(Canon Terry Dein)

(5) **General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000 : Procedure**

Synod requests that the motion to bring in the bill for the General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000 (motion 4(6)) be included in the motions ‘by request of the Synod’ in the order of business for this session of the Synod.

(Page 187)

(Justice Ken Handley AO)

(6) **General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000: Introduction**

Synod grants leave for the mover to introduce the General Synod - Law of the Church of England Clarification Canon 1992 Adopting Ordinance 2000.

(Page 187)

(Justice Ken Handley AO)

(7) **Archbishop’s power to withhold assent**

Synod requests Standing Committee to -

(a) examine the nature, basis, origin, history and development of the Archbishop’s power to withhold his assent to the making of ordinances duly passed by the Synod;

(b) prepare a report detailing its findings; and

(c) if thought appropriate, consider the preparation of legislation relating to this matter for the next session of the 45th Synod.

(Mr Neil Ingham)

(8) **Referral of matters to the Synod**

Synod requires that the Standing Committee bring to the next ordinary session of the Synod a bill -

(a) to require that any matter, or any part of a matter, being considered by the Standing Committee be referred to the Synod by the Archbishop upon -

- (i) the written request of the Archbishop; or
  - (ii) the written request or requests of any 5 members of the Standing Committee; or
  - (iii) the written request or requests of 100 members of the Synod; and
- (b) to require that the Standing Committee take no further action about the matter, or part thereof, referred to the Synod by the Archbishop under paragraph (a), except for the production of reports on the matter;
- (c) to require that the Standing Committee prepare a report about the matter referred to the Synod and include in that report the report of any member or members of the Standing Committee who hold a minority view.

(The Rev Paul Cohen)

**(9) Support for churches and parishes without a minister**

Synod respectfully requests that the Archbishop set up a committee to review the effectiveness of the Diocese in supporting parishes and churches during times when they are without a minister taking into account the following principles -

- (a) The committee should review, amongst other things, the experiences of churches and ministers who have recently been involved in this process.
- (b) Matters to be investigated should include
  - The opportunity for parishes and churches to consider options for new directions for ministry, growth and change.
  - The timing of presentation board process, especially when long service leave is taken after a minister finishes.
  - The accuracy of advice from Diocesan Presentation board members to parish nominators.
  - The accuracy of advice from parishes to prospective ministers.
  - Tenure of other parish staff and the effect this can have in the parish.
  - The availability and level of episcopal support for churches without a minister.
  - Processes to deal with and resolve problems in churches and parishes.
  - The availability and level of parish administration support.
- (c) The committee should comprise both laity and clergy but exclude those that are (or have been recently) diocesan presentation board representatives.
- (d) The committee should provide a report to the next session of the Synod outlining the problems and making recommendations as to any changes that would improve our processes and support our church people at a time when they may most need it.

(Mr Ross Mitchell)

**(10) Funding of Anglican sports ministries**

Synod -

- (a) notes the 5th and final report of the Archbishop's Olympic Games Task Force,
- (b) acknowledges the need for a continuing Anglican Sports Ministry, as identified by the advisory board of the Task Force, and as supported by the Archbishop, and
- (c) supports an ongoing Anglican Sports Ministry to continue the work and witness of the Archbishop's Olympic Games Task Force, and
- (d) requests that the Standing Committee provide funding in the current 3 year Synod budget period of an extra \$40,000 for 2001 and \$80,000 in 2002.

(Bishop Brian King)

**(11) Principles of the Book of Common Prayer**

Synod, recognising that there may sometimes be a lack of awareness today of some of the important principles of the Book of Common Prayer (however narrowly or broadly interpreted), reminds church people -

- (a) that each infant or adult baptised is "regenerate and grafted into the body of Christ's Church" and thereby made "a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of

the kingdom of heaven”, called “to lead a godly and Christian life”, following “the example of our Saviour Christ, and ... made like unto him”;

- (b) that candidates for Baptism who are able to answer for themselves are to be “sufficiently instructed in the principles of the Christian Religion” and exhorted to “prepare themselves with Prayers and Fasting for the receiving of this holy Sacrament”;
- (c) that infant Baptism is founded upon our Lord’s command “that children be brought unto him” and “his good will toward them”, and the pre-existing “good will of our heavenly Father ... declared by his Son Jesus Christ”;
- (d) that God who has “vouchsafed to regenerate” those baptised “by Water and the Holy Ghost” and who has given them “forgiveness of all their sins” is called upon by the bishop in Confirmation to “strengthen them ... with the Holy Ghost the Comforter”;
- (e) that “the Body and Blood of Christ” are “verily and indeed taken and received by the faithful in the Lord’s Supper”, “that holy Sacrament”, God vouchsafing to feed those who duly receive “these holy mysteries” with “spiritual food”, but that none shall be admitted to the holy communion “until such time as he be confirmed or ready and desirous to be confirmed”;
- (f) that “from the Apostles’ time there have been these Orders of Ministers in Christ’s Church; Bishops, Priests and Deacons” and that no one is to execute any of these offices unless called, tried, examined and admitted by “publick Prayer, with Imposition of Hands” according to the Prayer Book Ordinal (or authorised alternative), “or hath had formerly Episcopal Consecration or Ordination”;
- (g) that the blessing of some material things of God’s creation is commanded, ie. the sanctifying of water in Baptism and the consecration of bread and wine in Communion (remaining “consecrated Elements” reverently placed on the Lord’s Table and covered after the administration), with alms “and other devotions of the people” earlier placed upon “that holy Table”, and with the church building itself consecrated as “the house of God” in which great reverence is to be shown (BCP & Homilies).

Synod also acknowledges that the Book of Common Prayer in providing the official “standard of worship” in our Church, among other things, also bears witness to -

- (i) the rightful provision of “special confession” for those troubled in conscience especially in time of sickness;
- (ii) the rightful provision for the observance of Sundays and other feast days of the Church, together with “Vigils, Fasts and Days of Abstinence”;
- (iii) the “Solemnization of Matrimony” as ordained by God and intended as the union of a man and woman so long as they both shall live.

(The Rev Dr John Bunyan)

#### (12) **Declaration “*Dominus Iesus*”**

Synod records its appreciation of the reaffirmation recently made by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church in the *Declaration “Dominus Iesus”* of the uniqueness and completeness of Christ for the salvation of all humanity, but expresses its sorrow that the declaration continues to deny that what are called in the document “ecclesial communities” which do not have “the valid episcopal order and the genuine and integral substance of the eucharistic mystery” (which would include us in the Anglican Church of Australia) are churches of Christ in the proper sense.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth)

#### (13) **Foundation of our Church**

Synod -

- (a) acknowledges that the constitutional foundation of our church is set forth in the fundamental declarations contained in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia and that this Church takes no power to alter or add to those declarations nor to impose any new statement of faith, the fundamental declarations being as follows -
  - (i) The Anglican Church of Australia, being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, holds the Christian Faith as professed by the Church

of Christ from primitive times and in particular as set forth in the creeds known as the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed;

- (ii) This Church receives all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary for salvation.
  - (iii) This Church will ever obey the commands of Christ, teach his Doctrine, administer His sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, follow and uphold His discipline and preserve the three orders of bishops, priests and deacons in the sacred ministry.
- (b) acknowledges that all licensed deacons, priests and bishops of this Church are to give such assent to the Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Articles of Religion as the formularies of this Church require, without any additional doctrinal imposition.

(Associate Professor Michael Horsburgh)

**(14) Encouraging young Anglicans to enter the teaching profession**

In the light of the increasing number of Christian and Anglican Schools particularly, and the often difficult task of finding sufficient Christian teachers, Synod -

- (a) notes that the committee appointed under Synod resolution 21/96 has not been able to report on recommendations for the recruitment, training and development of Christian educators in Anglican Church schools and hereby disbands that committee; and
- (b) requests that the Standing Committee appoint an expert committee with power to co-opt to -
  - (i) investigate ways of encouraging young people in the Diocese to consider teaching as a profession,
  - (ii) examine means of providing initial training and continuing professional development for equipping teachers and chaplains specifically for service in Anglican schools, and
  - (iii) report back to Synod in 2001.

(Mr Geoff Kyngdon/Dr Grant Maple)

**(15) Territorial archdeacons**

Synod recognises the need to address appropriate support for territorial archdeacons and-

- (a) requests that the Standing Committee investigate and report upon appropriate office equipment support and its provision to territorial archdeacons; and
- (b) requests that Sydney Diocesan Secretariat make available immediately any of an appropriate computer and software, fax machine, mobile telephone, and such other equipment, as requested by individual archdeacons, from the resources of the Secretariat until such time as a formal resolution is made by the Standing Committee regarding the supply of such equipment.

(The Rev Laurie Davies/Mr Ian Robertson)

**(16) Professional counsellors**

Synod requests Sydney *Anglicare*, in co-operation with the Association of Professional Counsellors, carry out a feasibility study, including an estimate of funds required, with a view to introducing a Christian based training program for counsellors, equivalent to that formerly conducted by the Anglican Counselling Centre, and report back to Synod before the 3rd session of the 45th Synod.

(Mr Bill Scott)

**(17) General Synod - promotion of canon concerning administration of Holy Communion by deacons**

Synod requests that our representatives on General Synod, at the next session of General Synod, promote a bill for a canon to permit a deacon to administer Holy Communion.

(Miss Linda Hughes/Mrs Lesley Ramsay)

**(18) Services for Sunday**

Synod commends the Archbishop's Liturgical Panel and the Doctrine Commission for the work they have undertaken to prepare suitable services for Sunday use in the Diocese and, recognising the needs of parishes to be more user-friendly, requests that Standing Committee consider -

- (a) how to expeditiously authorise the use of the service; and
- (b) how the costs of production might be met, bearing in mind that it may be possible to produce the services individually on cards and/or computer discs.

(The Rev Greg Olliffe)

**(19) Suspension of Standing Orders to reconsider amendments**

Synod suspends so much of the Standing Orders 49 and 50 as would preclude the consideration of the amendments to the Conduct of Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 of which the Rev Phillip Griffin has given notice.

*(Intended to be moved at the 3rd reading stage - see motion 3(9))*

(The Rev Phillip Griffin)

**(20) Recommittal of the Conduct of the Business of Synod Ordinance 2000**

Synod recommits the bill for the Conduct of Business of Synod Ordinance 2000 to consider amendments of which the Rev Phillip Griffin has given notice concerning the giving of notice of a motion and the procedure involving objection to a motion being passed formally

*(Intended to be moved at the 3rd reading stage - see motion 3(9))*

(The Rev Phillip Griffin)

**(21) Relationship with the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn**

Synod notes from the written text of the Archbishop's Presidential Address that last month the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn said to his Synod regarding relationships with Sydney Diocese.

"May I also suggest that theologians from our 2 dioceses discuss the vexed question of Lay Presidency? For my part Archbishop, I am not closed to the possibility, but I come to the proposition from an entirely different direction ....

I would like to enter dialogue that we might jointly consider the issue. While no conclusions could be assumed, we might find a common meeting place."

Synod welcomes Bishop Browning's invitation for dialogue and respectfully requests the Archbishop to continue the conversation and inform Standing Committee of progress.

(Bishop Robert Forsyth)

**(22) Creche facilities for Synod**

Synod requests that Standing Committee investigate the feasibility of organising creche facilities for Synod sessions in 2001 and thereafter.

(Ms Karin Sowada)

**(23) Sydney and other Anglican Dioceses overseas**

Synod notes the Archbishop's comments in his Presidential Address about the positive links developing between Sydney and other Anglican Dioceses overseas and sends its greetings on this occasion to -

Archbishop Peter Kwong of Hong Kong  
Archbishop Yong Ping Church of Sabah  
Bishop John Chew of Singapore  
Bishop Alexis Bilindabayabo of Gahini, Rwanda  
Bishop Pie Ntukamazina of Bujumbura, Burundi  
Bishop Josiah Idowu Fearon of Kaduna, Nigeria  
Bishop Derek Eaton of Nelson, New Zealand.

(Archdeacon Geoff Huard)



**(24) Open meetings of the Standing Committee**

In keeping with contemporary understanding of openness, Synod requests that meetings of the Standing Committee be opened to members of Synod as observers as soon as possible and that appropriate notice of meeting details and agendas be made available ahead of time.

(Ms Kath White)

**(25) Censure of the Standing Committee: reconciliation**

Following the Synod's decision to censure Standing Committee over its handling of the enquiry into the Anglican Counselling Centre -

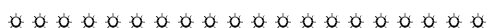
- (a) Synod respectfully urges the members of the Standing Committee to carefully and prayerfully reflect on the implications of the motion to censure them over the matter of the enquiry into the Anglican Counselling Centre, and to urgently take all necessary steps to reconcile with those who have been hurt as a result of that process by the end of January 2001. The Synod further requests that Standing Committee report on the matter to them at the Synod to be held in late 2001.
- (b) Synod respectfully asks the Standing Committee to establish appropriate protocols for conflict resolution within the Diocese which would enhance relationships between individuals and structures, glorify God and further the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Synod further requests that Standing Committee report on the matter to them at the Synod to be held in late 2001.
- (c) Synod expresses its affection, support and Christian love for all members of the Standing Committee, and sincerely expresses its continuing prayerful support for the Standing Committee in its ongoing role in exercising leadership and management in our Diocese.

(The Rev David Irwin)

**(26) Overseas Ministry Fund**

Synod welcomes the establishment of the Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund that is set up specifically to assist evangelistic endeavours in Anglican dioceses in other parts of the world, and commends it to the strong support of the people of the Diocese.

(Deaconess Margaret Rodgers)



## **2nd Session of the 45th Synod**

### **Notices for Tuesday 17 October 2000**

**1. Arrangements for Meetings**

The hours of meeting will be approximately 3 pm to 5.45 pm and 7 pm to 9.30 pm or 10 pm. The meeting place will be open from 2.30 pm.

Please take your belongings and papers with you each time you leave the meeting place.

**2. Name Tags**

Please wear your name tag to enter the Synod members' section of the meeting place.

# Hymn, Bible Reading and Prayers: Tuesday 17 October 2000

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
**Grace and peace also to you**

Let us pray

**God our Father,**

**You judge your people with wisdom and rule them with love.**

**Give a spirit of understanding to the Synod of this Diocese that we may make wise decisions, that will give glory to you and be a blessing to your people.**

**Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my Star, my Sun;  
and in that Light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1808-89)

Tune: Kingsfold

Used with permission: CCL Licence No. 64272

Pianist: The Rev Jackie Stoneman

## **Bible Reading (2 Corinthians 4.1-12):**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you.

### **Surprising Texts 4 "Styrofoam cups"**

## **Prayers**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch out your right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### *Other Prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen**