

# Daily Prayer

*Florence Li Tim-Oi*

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys. We begin by saying*

O Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord

**and teach me your paths.**

## **The First Reading**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

*Galatians 3.23-28*

# The Psalm

I love the Lord,  
for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦  
because he inclined his ear to me  
on the day I called to him.

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pains of hell took hold of me; ♦  
by grief and sorrow was I held.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ♦  
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; ♦  
our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the simple; ♦  
I was brought very low and he saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, ♦  
for the Lord has been gracious to you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, ♦  
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord ♦  
in the land of the living.

I believed that I should perish  
for I was sorely troubled; ♦  
and I said in my alarm,  
'Everyone is a liar.'

How shall I repay the Lord ♦  
for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation ♦  
and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦  
in the presence of all his people.

*Psalm 116.1-12*

## **The Gospel Reading**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

*Luke 10.1-9*

*In silence, we ask what the readings have to say to us today. Is there something that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?*

*When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle*

## The Canticle ~ A Song of the Covenant

I have given you as a light to the nations,  
and I have called you in righteousness.

Thus says God, who created the heavens, ♦  
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

Who gives breath to the people upon it ♦  
and spirit to those who walk in it,

'I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness, ♦  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

'I have given you as a covenant to the people, ♦  
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

'To bring out the captives from the dungeon, ♦  
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

'I am the Lord, that is my name; ♦  
my glory I give to no other.'

*Isaiah 42.5-8a*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.*

I have given you as a light to the nations,  
and I have called you in righteousness.

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God and  
continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

## **The Intercessions**

For the unity of the Church in witness and proclamation of the Gospel ...;

let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace and stability of all peoples  
and for the leaders of the nations ...;

let us pray to the Lord.

For places of work, education and leisure ...;

let us pray to the Lord.

For a blessing on our homes;

for our relations and friends and all whom we love ...;

let us pray to the Lord.

For the sick and suffering and all who minister to their needs ...;

let us pray to the Lord.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Our prayers conclude*

Loving God, giver of all good gifts,  
fill us with your grace,  
that we, like your servant Li Tim-Oi,  
first woman to be ordained an Anglican priest,  
may entrust you with our destiny.  
May we, with her same forbearance in the face  
of adversity, witness to you in all things;  
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

*[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]*

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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

*We conclude*

May God, who has called us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.

**Amen.**

## **Florence Li Tim-Oi**

26 February

*First woman priested in the Anglican Communion, 1944—Commemoration*

At her birth in 1907 Li Tim-Oi's father called her "Much Beloved." When she was baptized as a student, Tim-Oi chose the name Florence from "The Lady of the Lamp." Florence is celebrated worldwide for the witness to Christ that she lived out as the first female priest in the Anglican Communion. In 1931, at the ordination of a deaconess, she heard and responded to the call to ministry. She was made deacon in 1941, and was given charge of the Anglican congregation in the Portuguese colony of Macao, thronged with refugees from war-torn China.

When a priest could no longer travel from Japanese-occupied territory to preside for her at the eucharist, the Bishop of Hong Kong asked her to meet him in Free China, where on January 25, 1944 he ordained her "a priest in the Church of God." To defuse controversy, in 1946 she surrendered her priest's license, but not her Holy Orders, the knowledge of which carried her through Maoist persecution. For the next 39 years, she served faithfully under very difficult circumstances, particularly after the Communists took over mainland China. In 1983, arrangements were made for her to come to Canada, where she was appointed as an honorary assistant at St. John's Chinese congregation and St. Matthew's parish in Toronto.

The Anglican Church of Canada had by this time approved the ordination of women to the priesthood, and in 1984, the 40th anniversary of her ordination, Ms. Li was, with great joy and thanksgiving, reinstated as a priest. This event was celebrated not only in Canada but also at Westminster Abbey and at Sheffield in England, even though the Church of England had not yet approved the ordination of women.

From that date until her death in 1992, she exercised her priesthood with such faithfulness and quiet dignity that she won tremendous respect for herself and increasing support for other women seeking ordination. She was awarded Doctorates of Divinity by General Theological Seminary, New York, and Trinity College,

Toronto.

The very quality of Ms. Li's ministry in China and in Canada, and the grace with which she exercised her priesthood, helped convince many people throughout

the Communion and beyond that the Holy Spirit was certainly working in and through women priests. Her contribution to the Church far exceeded the expectations of those involved in her ordination in 1944. She died on February 26, 1992.



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