

Bishop Heyd Authorizes Inclusive Language Psalms and Daily Offices for a One Year Trial Period in EDNY

In 2018 the General Convention passed Resolution AO68, which inaugurated a new era of liturgical reform and renewal. The Resolution states:

“That our methodology [will] be one of a dynamic process for discerning common worship, **engaging all the baptized**, while practicing accountability to The Episcopal Church ...”

“That bishops [will] engage worshiping communities in experimentation and the creation of alternative texts to offer to the wider church, and that **each diocese be urged to create a liturgical commission** to collect, reflect, teach and share these resources with the Task Force for Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision.”

“That our liturgical revision **utilize inclusive and expansive language and imagery for humanity and divinity.**”

In 2025, the Episcopal Diocese of New York revived our Diocesan Liturgy Committee, which has been working on numerous projects that are aligned with the intentions of the above resolution. Today we are releasing two portions of *The Book of Common Prayer* that are being revised for Inclusive and Expansive language for a one year trial period: Morning and Evening Prayer, and the revision of the '79 Psalter. In this way all of us; the bishops, the committee, and all the baptized, will have a voice. Please bear in mind that these Psalms and Offices are not 'finished'. They are 'living documents' and have reached the point in the process where they are ready for the full participation of the Diocese.

In order to facilitate this trial period, each Monday, the committee will send out the Psalm(s) for the upcoming Sunday through the priest listserv. Administrators can then simply cut and paste them into your bulletin. This is in addition to having the entire document sent to you now. Our hope is that, during the course of the trial period, this weekly provision will provide the people of our diocese with considerable exposure to these inclusive language Psalms, I which God will never be referred to as 'he'. We hope this will meet a longstanding need in our Sunday worship. Additionally, the Rev. Jorge Ortiz has organized a subcommittee for translating these inclusive Offices into Spanish. This will take time but we will get them out to you when they are ready.

As you use and reflect upon the Psalms and Offices we are releasing today, we invite you to send your feedback to the Liturgy Committee at liturgyfeedback@diocesenyc.org. In your comments please be as specific as possible, citing Psalm and verse or, regarding the Offices, specific canticles or prayers. All of your comments will be read by the editorial team and, if deemed helpful, they will be implemented.

Thank you for your willingness to participate.