



REVISING APB 1989

UPDATE #9

A PRAYER BOOK FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
TOMORROW - TODAY

Under Southern Skies – In an African Voice

Using *Celebrating Sunday* in Advent

The *Season of Advent*, the beginning of the new liturgical year is upon us. This affords parishes, across the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa*, the opportunity to prepare, use and evaluate liturgical texts from *Celebrating Sunday*. This update will offer some guidance as to how one might use the materials provided in *Celebrating Sunday* during Advent.

Principles or Theological Rationales Behind the Advent Texts

When preparing and using texts from *Celebrating Sunday* it will be helpful to remember several of the major principles or theological rationales which have guided the compiling and production of the texts:

- Gender Inclusive language
- Elevating the Liturgical Season
- Rooting ourselves under Southern skies
- Finding an authentic African voice

The call for Gender Inclusive language was what first launched the revision process of *An Anglican Prayer Book 1989* [APB 1989]. The liturgies for Advent and those throughout *Celebrating Sunday* seek to honour this impetus.

While *APB 1989* does distinguish Easter and Lent to a limited extent, the texts of *Celebrating Sunday* seek to highlight the Liturgical Seasons with greater clarity. During Advent the intention is to elevate the themes of *hope* and *expectation* that characterise the season.

Traditional imagery for Advent, borrowed from the Northern Hemisphere church, explores the theme of light in the midst of darkness that makes sense when all around are the signs of midwinter. The Advent material for *Celebrating Sunday* seeks to take seriously the reality that we are not in midwinter, but rather in the blaze of the Southern Summer.

Finding an authentically African voice has remained an elusive goal. Of all the texts in *Celebrating Sunday* the *Prayers before Worship* [pg 19] take this principle the most seriously.

Preparing the Parish for Using the *Celebrating Sunday* Advent Texts

Liturgical worship finds its strength in agreed upon texts and rhythms. Therefore changes to the liturgy can often cause confusion and anger. Naturally pastoral sensitivity is required as parishes introduce material from *Celebrating Sunday*.

Liturgical changes should not be sprung on a worshipping community. Involving parishioners in the process of introducing materials from *Celebrating Sunday* is crucial. Drawing in Council members, Lay Ministers and Liturgical Planning Committees can go a long way toward a positive reception of new texts. Use the parish Newsletter or Pew Leaflet to educate parishioners about the rationale for the changes so that their participation in the liturgy can be active and engaged.

Finally, reassure the community that their responses and evaluation of the liturgies are important and will be crucial for the on-going revision process.

Preparing Texts for Advent using *Celebrating Sunday*

Together with the team of people who plan liturgies for your parish, you may want to consider using or adapting the following step by step process for preparing Advent texts using

Celebrating Sunday:

1. Read **Shape and Structure** [p. 5];
2. Read **How to use this Book** [p. 8];
3. Choose which service to construct [**Holy Eucharist Principal Service of the Day** or **Seasonal Sunday Evening Prayer** or **Service of the Word**];
4. Consult and familiarise yourself with the **Block Structure** designed for your desired service [page 9, 10 or 11]
5. Read the **Notes** written for your desired service [pp. 13, 14 or 17];
6. Insert the **Section Headings** below in a blank document. For example if your desired service was the Holy Eucharist, the following sections would be listed in your document:
 - Prayers before Worship**
 - Gather in the Lord's Name**
 - Proclaim and Receive God's Word**
 - Respond to God's Word**
 - Move to the Table**
 - Celebrate at the Table**
 - Go Out as God's People**
7. Now you are ready to populate the sections with elements from CD included with your copy of *Celebrating Sunday*;
8. Begin with the file entitled *Prayers Before Worship*; this contains the both the proposed standard Eucharistic responses in Inclusive Language as well as the set of Prayers before Worship.
9. Secondly locate the file with materials for the service you are constructing [**Holy Eucharist Principal Service of the Day** or **Seasonal Sunday Evening Prayer - A Service of the Word** may draw on materials from both the other two sets of resources]

Presenting *Celebrating Sunday* Texts

Your copy of *Celebrating Sunday* includes a CD with the electronic versions of the texts in PDF format - on the assumption that Parishes will construct liturgies from the materials provided, adapting, changing or adding to them.

The materials in *Celebrating Sunday* are too dense to be used directly from the book, as one would use *APB 1989*. Therefore a decision will need to be made as to how the texts are to be presented to the worshippers.

For parishes that use data projectors this will be easy. Others will need to consider printing the texts. One could do this in several ways:

- a complete booklet for each service could be produced;
- a shorter, simpler booklet for each Sunday that contains only the texts to be said by the People'
- a 'seasonal' booklet could be produced for use on each of the Sundays of Advent.

Each option has pros and cons - not least the environmental impact.

Evaluating the Advent Texts of *Celebrating Sunday*

As already mentioned the process of Prayer Book revision will take very seriously the evaluation of these trial use texts.

It is important that those who do the evaluation will have been immersed in the texts and used them enough to enter into their rhythm. In other words the evaluation of a parish that has only experienced a once-off service using these materials will not be very helpful. Therefore, please prepare for the evaluation by entering into the rhythm of these texts fully.

May God grant you a Advent blessed with the experience of holy anticipation, expectation and hope.

These notes have been prepared by The Reverend Andy Kruger, former member of the Prayer Book Revision Sub-Committee and the Prayer Book Revision Secretariat, now the Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey.