



## **The Prayer Book Society of Canada**

*National Chairman - The Rev'd Canon Dr. Gordon R. Maitland*

Trinitytide 2023

Dear friends and supporters of the Book of Common Prayer,

You may remember that I mentioned in my last letter the upcoming General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Society's plans as usual to have an information booth there to promote our work. Unfortunately, for the first time in more than fifteen years we will not be in attendance. The event will be a joint assembly with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and space limitations at the venue (the University of Calgary) have made it impossible for many groups, not just the PBSC, to have a display table. Nevertheless, there will be at least two members of the National Council attending General Synod as observers because we wish to be in the hall when the new prayer "For Reconciliation with the Jews", the production of which was spearheaded by the PBSC, is voted on for the second time for approval. While we do not think the vote will fail, it will be an important milestone for the Society owing to the very positive publicity the Society has received for undertaking this initiative.

Two new documents have been posted to the PBSC website ([prayerbook.ca](http://prayerbook.ca)), to which I would like to draw your attention. The first is an article entitled "A Liturgy of Comfort", written by the Rev'd Benjamin Crosby, a graduate student at McGill University in Montreal. He has initiated a weekly Eucharist in a chapel in the religious studies building, using the 1962 Canadian BCP and following the original ceremonial according to the BCP of 1662. He speaks eloquently of the spiritual enrichment that this has provided both to himself and to the other worshippers. The second is a statement by the PBSC regarding Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). There has been widespread concern that what was promised to be an absolute last resort medical procedure in the most extreme cases of suffering with an incurable disease is now being so loosely framed as to become one more lifestyle choice among many. The statement points out that the Prayer Book, in keeping with the teaching of the universal Church throughout the ages, has a good deal to say on the issue of wilfully choosing, while in a sound state of mind, to take one's own life.

To maintain the website where we post such articles, and a variety of others, requires ongoing funding and support. We ask you to please consider, to the extent that your means allow, a financial contribution to the present and future work of the PBSC. An envelope is provided for you to donate via cheque or credit card, or you may choose to use the Canada Helps link under "Connect" on our website to make an online donation. Your assistance is, as always, greatly appreciated.

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Gordon R. Maitland

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