

The Primates' Meeting in Canterbury
Statement from Archbishop Brown Turei
January 7th 2016

Archbishop Brown Turei is asking the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia to hold in prayer the upcoming meeting of the Anglican Primates.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has invited the 38 Primates to Canterbury, in England, to reflect and pray on the future of the Anglican Communion. The Primates are the leaders of 38 autonomous national and regional churches that make up the Communion. They will determine the agenda, and the way the meeting proceeds, once they arrive.

The gathering of the Primates begins on Monday 11th January. Archbishop Philip Richardson and Archbishop Winston Halapua, as Primates of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia will attend.

Archbishop Brown was invited as a Primate but is not attending. "All three of us, as Primates, speak for each other and so Archbishops Winston and Philip carry my voice to Canterbury next week and I wish to hold them in prayer with the work they have to do," says Archbishop Brown Turei.

The Archbishop recalls attending previous Primates' Meetings where there was division, rather than seeking a future together to address what he calls the reality of diversity.

Archbishop Brown says the three-tikanga model of the church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia puzzled the Anglican Communion when it became a reality. "The fact that the invitation to Canterbury was to all three of us as Primates demonstrates an appreciation of a model that reflects diversity and I hope that can emerge from Canterbury in the next week."

The Rev'd Don Tamihere has prepared collects and a form of Intercession and Thanksgiving as ways the Province can hold the Primates' Meeting in prayer.

Prayers for Primates Meeting 2016

1. God of Everlasting Love,

You who loved the world so much that you gave your only Son;
You who call us to love you
with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength;
By loving our neighbours as we love ourselves;
By loving our enemies, and blessing those who curse us;
By loving the stranger in our midst, and holding no hate in our hearts;

Grant that we might be true vessels of your love:
Patient, kind, and keeping no record of wrong;
Bearing through all;
Believing through all;
Hoping through all;
Enduring through all;

That we might fulfil your command to love each other as you have loved us,
with a love that never fails;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

2. God of Ocean and Earth,

You who made mountain and river, sea and sky;
You who gave your breath to all creation, great and small;

Grant that we might live as a reflection of you;
Like wind in the wheat;
Like sunlight on the water;
Like summer rain falling
on the righteous and unrighteous alike;

So that we may live as new creations in Christ,
ever truthful;
ever forgiving;
ever renewed;

Made not in our own image, but in yours alone;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

3. God of Peace and Unity,

You who made the many as one body;
Foot and hand;
Eye and tongue;
Head and heart;
Each different and unique;
Each in need of the other;

Grant that we might find peace in our bonding,
and unity in our difference;
many members woven together as one body,
for Your glory and not ours alone;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

Let us pray

Eternal God,
You are the Lord of Heaven
You made the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars

You are the Lord of the Earth
You made the Land, the Sea, and the Sky

You are the Lord of life
You made us to live, to laugh, and to love

We thank You Lord for all our blessings
We thank You for the good things we have

For the food we eat
For the clothes we wear
For the homes we live in
We thank You for the abundance that we share

We thank You for those who love us

We thank You for our family and friends

We thank You for those who teach us

We thank You for our guides and mentors

We thank You for those who challenge and oppose us

Grant that we may grow to be less like ourselves and more like You

Help us to reach the lost and the lonely

That we might be providers of safety and comfort

Help us to serve the poor and the marginalised

That we might be bringers of truth and blessing

We pray for the sick and the suffering

Grant that Your healing presence may always be with them

We remember those who have passed away

We commend them into Your keeping

We give thanks to you for all the Saints

We know they watch from heaven with You

We give thanks for the Body of Christ

We praise you for the Family of God.

We thank you for our calling to mission and ministry;

Help us to ever be Your true disciples;

To live as you lived;

To serve as you served;

To love as you loved;

Help us to walk in your ways, O Lord;

To suffer the children

To welcome the prodigal

To give like the widow

To be good like the Samaritan

To have faith like the Centurion

To challenge the Pharisee

To dine with sinners

To bring Good News to the poor

and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour

Look now with mercy upon us, and upon the Anglican Communion that we represent

Lord to You we offer our thanks and praise

Be the healing in our hurt

Be the strength in our weakness

Be the peace in our our misunderstanding

Be the light to our path

Be the love that covers all sin

Be the cord that cannot be broken

Almighty God, we lift our hearts to You

Without You we are nothing,

but with You we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us;

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen.