



Northern Son



A pastoral newsletter for the Anglican Church of St George - Fairbanks, Alaska

Patronal Festival: April 23

Vol 1 No 2

Sunday Service: 11 am
currently meeting at the Masonic Lodge
10th Ave & Noble St, Fairbanks

Bible Study: tba

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Tentative Schedule:

Trinity 14	September 13
St Luke	October 18
Synod	October 26-30
All Saints	November 1
Trinity 22	November 8



A continuation...

As I ease my way into the role of your new Vicar, I hope that it continues to be the smooth and happy transition we've enjoyed so far. I thoroughly enjoyed my last visit and look forward to seeing you again in another week or so. We plan on this next visit to be shorter... only one Sunday, but important none-the-less. I hope you can all make it to church that Sunday.

Prayer List

Our prayer life is important... both for our selves and for those we pray for. If you are not already doing so, please take a few minutes each day for prayer and to pray for others. Not only do you have our parish prayer list to work from, but you probably know a few others who could use your prayers as well. Never underestimate the power of "knee mail". Remember what Samuel wrote:

Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you Sam 12:23a

Here we learn that not only is prayer a good thing, but to not pray for others is a sin! This was a concept I first learned in seminary. No one had put it quite that way for me before. Boy, was that a revelation. Trust me when I say I've been praying for others ever since. Not only do we pray for God's intercession into the struggles of our friends and family... but for the salvation of our own souls in the process.

Pocket Crosses

I have ordered a small supply of pocket crosses. These crosses are handmade by Palistinian Christian craftsmen in Bethlemen from olive wood. I hope to have them by the time I see you for the 14th Sunday in Trinity. I encourage you to take some and share them with your friends and family. You'll never know when having one handy will bring you a little extra peace, or just be there as a reminder of who you are when you need it the most.

I'm sending this online version of the pastoral letter because I think you may be interested in occasional updates from your pastor at the **Anglican Church of St George** - Fairbanks. If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, [click here](#). If you are not the person addressed in this email we apologize for any inconvenience. Please email me at mail@stgeo-fairbanks.org, call us at (866) 542-5297 so I can update my records.

Stand Upright in the Face of your God!

Kum ba ya myLord Kum ba ya. Kum ba ya, myLord, Kum ba ya Kum ba
ya, myLord, Kum ba ya. Oh, Lord, Kum ba ya.

Kum-ba-ya

A friend of mine reminded me recently of some research I had done a couple of years ago into the once popular hymn, Kumbaya. I have always liked the tune and the lyrics... and that was before I ever knew what they meant. The familiar interpretation of the word Kumbaya is that the song was derived from a Gullah spiritual and published in English in the 1930s and then popularized in the '60s. We are all told at the time that this was all about Christian spirituality and closeness to God... That song was sung at virtually every Scout and church camp during the 1970s, '80s and beyond! Well, that definition and meaning is probably... at least in part, why it's popularly has waned in the more recent decades. I'd ask that you consider an alternative explanation.

Although I cannot doubt the origin of the melody being Gullah, I suggest a much earlier source for the lyrics. If we consider "kum-ba-ya" as have Hebrew roots, we have a much stronger statement of faith than you might realize. Breaking down the word:

kum: to rise up, endure, to continue, and to remain upright

ba: in

yah: YHWH / the Lord.

So, everytime you hear the song, rather than just have it remind you of a pleasant camp song you once learned as a kid... think of it as a calling and reminder that are to stand up and face the Lord

your God as a faithful follower... a true believer.

My interest in this song was triggered while reading Myles Coverdale's translation of "The Old Faith". I would recommend that book to anyone who is interested in the basics from which our reformation roots have evolved. God Bless. ✘

