



The New Epistle

a newsletter of

The Progressive Episcopal Church

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SAMUEL SEABURY

FIRST BISHOP OF THE AMERICAN EPISCOPATE

NOVEMBER 14

Rev. Canon Rick Ward-Harder Consecrated

On Saturday 21 October, the Rev. Canon Rick Ward-Harder was consecrated to the episcopacy by Rt. Rev. Thurlow Weed, Secretary General of the Progressive Episcopal Church. The newly consecrated bishop was then installed as the Fourth Bishop of the Delta, succeeding Rt. Rev. Dan Varga, whose retirement is effective upon Rick's consecration and installation. The service was held in the historic Drumm [Lutheran] Church, near Thornville, Ohio.

The service was live-streamed, and was viewed by over 200 people during the live event, with another 200+ viewing later. The liturgy used a modified form of the Consecration of a Bishop from the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*, followed by Holy Eucharist from the New Zealand Prayer Book's *Eucharist of Creation and Redemption*.

We are grateful to Bishop Varga for his years of faithful service to this Church.



Entrance Procession



"Veni, Creator Spiritus"



The Consecration



The Mitering

Thanksgiving

In the Northern Hemisphere, the harvest season is in full swing. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is planting season. Throughout the world, societies and cultures have for millennia celebrated harvest-tide with festivals and ceremonies to give thanks to their Deity for the fruits of the harvest. Similarly, there are ancient celebrations for the arrival of Spring.

Autumn & Harvest, and also Spring & planting are associated with much colour. In the Northern Hemisphere the leaves of the trees turn brilliant shades of orange, yellow, and red.

History

In the American Colonies, days of thanksgiving were ordered by governors following a plentiful rain after a period of drought, for a good harvest, or even for the birth of a child. Unfortunately, there were also darker reasons for ordering a day of thanksgiving. Nearly all the ordered thanksgivings were one-time events, but the first order for an annual observance came in 1637 when the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered a Day of Thanksgiving to celebrate the massacre of 700 Pequot men, women, children, and infants, most of whom were burned alive in their longhouse. The Governor decreed that the celebration of this massacre was to be held annually.

The present Thanksgiving 'celebration' is based historically on a mixture of the 1621 meeting between the Indians the new Pilgrim colony, and the commemoration of the Pequot massacre (with perhaps some conviviality and cuisine thrown in from the Jamestown, VA colony's annual celebrations).

For us today

As Followers of The Way, we must be mindful that every day is a Day of Thanksgiving, that there really is no need to set aside one day. There are many families who declare a Day of Thanksgiving at any time of the year for a particularly special occasion, such as the birth of a child, or a marriage engagement announced. It is an opportunity to gather as a group of family and friends to gather in thanksgiving celebration.

In the Southern Hemisphere the land is awash in the brilliant colours of Spring.

All these brilliant colours remind us of all the colours of God's love, and of the manifold blessings we receive from the Creator. While we in the Northern climes approach the time of harvest thanksgiving -- and here in the United States the Thanksgiving Holiday -- let us be mindful that our thanksgiving to the Creator -- the Great Oneness -- should be part of our every waking moment.

May we meditate on these words from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians: *And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. **Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.** Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good.*

EVOLUTIONS

Miscellaneous TPEC news

Please keep Bishop Dan Varga in prayer. In addition to having extraordinary challenges in his life this year, he has also had some significant health issues. We hold +Dan in the Light of God's Love and Healing.



Bishop Thurlow Weed will be travelling to Key West, Florida to officiate his mother Auwina Weed's funeral, which will be held at 11am at Trinity Presbyterian Church, the church she served so faithfully for so many years, and where her late husband was pastor 1968-1980. Bishop Weed will be assisted by the pastor of Trinity, Rev. Denise McLeod, and the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Rev. Gary Faith. Bishop Weed attended the Lutheran church's school from 1st through 8th grade, and Mrs. Weed was organist for the school's Friday chapel services starting in 1972, and later became the church's regular organist.

Please keep Bishop Weed in prayer for travel mercies.





The Consecration of Samuel Seabury

SAMUEL SEABURY, the first bishop in the Protestant Episcopal Church, was born in Groton, Connecticut, on the thirtieth of November 1729. After ordination in England in 1753, he was assigned to Christ Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey as a missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. In 1757, he became rector of Grace Church, Jamaica, Long Island, and in 1766 rector of St Peter's, Westchester County. During the American War for Independence, he remained loyal to the Crown and served as a chaplain in the British army.

After the War, a number of Connecticut clergymen, meeting in secret on the twenty-fifth of March 1783 named Seabury or Jeremiah

Leaming, whoever would be willing and able, to seek episcopal consecration in England. Leaming declined, while Seabury accepted and set sail for England.

After a year of negotiation, Seabury found it impossible to obtain episcopal orders from the Church of England because, as an American citizen, he could not swear allegiance to the Crown. Seabury then considered seeking consecration at the hands of bishops in the Church of Denmark, but Martin Routh, a young professor and patristics scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford, advised against it. On Routh's advice, Seabury turned instead to the Non-Juring bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and on the twenty-fourth of November 1784, in Aberdeen, he was consecrated by the bishop and the bishop coadjutor of Aberdeen and the bishop of Ross and Caithness, in the presence of a number of clergy and laity.

On his return home, Seabury was recognized as Bishop of Connecticut in Convocation on the third of August 1785 at Middletown. While serving setting the Church in Connecticut in order, White also responded to appeals from parishes in Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey to help set the Church in order in those states, being as they were at the time without bishops or diocesan organization. With William White, the Bishop of Pennsylvania (whose was able to obtain consecration at the hands of English bishops because of a parliamentary change in the law regarding the oath of allegiance to the Crown), he was active in the organization of the Protestant Episcopal Church at the General Convention of 1789. Seabury played a decisive role in the development of the American Book of Common Prayer, when he kept his promise, made in a concordat with the Scottish bishops, to move the American Church to adopt the Scottish form for the celebration of the Holy Communion, with the restoration of the *epiclesis*, the prayer for the Holy Spirit, to the eucharistic prayer, as well as the prayer of oblation after the Words of Institution and the *epiclesis*, which had disappeared from the prayer of consecration in English Prayer Books after the first (1549) version. Hence to this day it is customary to speak of this as the Scoto-American tradition of the shape of Prayer Book eucharistic prayers.

In 1790 Seabury became responsible for the episcopal oversight of the churches in Rhode Island, and at the General Convention of 1792 he participated in the first consecration of a bishop on American soil, that of John Claggett of Maryland. Seabury died on the twenty-fifth of February 1796 and is buried beneath St James' Church, New London.

prepared from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*
and other sources

N.B.: Samuel Seabury's line of Apostolic Succession is held within the episcopacy of the Progressive Episcopal Church.



November 2017



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Churchman's Ordo Edition

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>READINGS Mass — Year A Office — Year One</p> <p>Weekday Eucharistic Readings for use throughout the year are found in LFF, pages 498-528.</p> <p>See Notes on Reverse</p> <p>[] - In some Places</p>	<p>Days of Special Devotion are noted with ✠</p>	<p>✠</p>	<p>ALL SAINTS' DAY</p> <p>1</p> <p>Glo.Cr.Prf.A.S.</p>	<p>Commemoration of All Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)</p> <p>2</p> <p>Prf.Dead</p>	<p>Richard Hooker, Priest, 1600 ✠</p> <p>3</p> <p>Glo.Prf.Bap.</p>	<p>[Charles Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan, 1584]</p> <p>4</p> <p>[Common of a Theologian and Teacher II, Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.]</p>
<p>The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost [All Saints' Sunday - W]</p> <p>5</p> <p>Proper 26 Glo.Cr.Prf.L.D.</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Willibrord, Archbishop of Utrecht, Missionary to Frisia, 739</p> <p>7</p> <p>Glo.Prf.Ap.</p>	<p>[Saints and Martyrs of the Anglican Communion]</p> <p>8</p> <p>[Propers as on All Saints' Day]</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, 461 ✠</p> <p>10</p> <p>Glo.Prf.Epi.</p>	<p>Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397</p> <p>11</p> <p>Glo.Prf.St.2</p>
<p>The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>12</p> <p>Proper 27 Glo.Cr.Prf.L.D.</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Consecration of Samuel Seabury, First American Bishop, 1784 [Bestowal of the American Episcopate]</p> <p>14</p> <p>Glo.Cr.Prf.Ap.</p>	<p>[Albert the Great, Bishop of Ratisbon and Friar, 1280]</p> <p>15</p> <p>[Common of a Theologian and Teacher II, Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.]</p>	<p>Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093</p> <p>16</p> <p>Glo.Prf.Bap.</p>	<p>Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200 ✠</p> <p>17</p> <p>Glo.Prf.St.2</p>	<p>Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680</p> <p>18</p> <p>Glo.Prf.St.1</p>
<p>The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>19</p> <p>Proper 28 Glo.Cr.Prf.Inc.</p>	<p>Edmund, King of East Anglia, 870</p> <p>20</p> <p>Glo.Prf.Bap.</p>	<p>[Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary]</p> <p>21</p> <p>[Propers for May 31 Glo.Cr.Prf.Inc. or BVM (TASB)]</p>	<p>[Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c. 230] (C.S. Lewis - W)</p> <p>22</p> <p>[Common of a Martyr I, Glo.Prf.St.3]</p>	<p>THANKSGIVING DAY [Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100 - R]</p> <p>23</p> <p>Glo.Cr.Prf.Tri.</p>	<p>Feria ✠</p> <p>24</p>	<p>James Otis Sargent Huntington, Priest and Monk, 1935</p> <p>25</p> <p>Glo.Prf.St.2</p>
<p>The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King</p> <p>26</p> <p>Proper 29 Glo.Cr.Prf.Bap.</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Kamehameha and [Emma] of Hawaii</p> <p>28</p> <p>Glo.Prf.Bap.</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>29</p>	<p>SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE</p> <p>30</p> <p>Glo.Cr.Prf.Ap.</p>	<p>Glo.—Gloria Cr.—Creed Prf.—Proper Preface of Adv.—Advent Inc.—Incarnation Epi.—Epiphany H.Wk.—Holy Week Eas.—Easter Asc.—Ascension</p>	<p>Pen.—Pentecost Tri.—Trinity Sunday A.S.—All Saints St.—Saint Ap.—Apostles Ded.—Dedication Bap.—Baptism L.D.—Lord's Day</p>