



# The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Th.D.  
Bishop of Huron

April 2021

## **Yielding to the Life of the Spirit** ***Diocese of Huron, Synod 2021***

Dear members of Synod,

*“ . . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

Once again, as it was last September, our annual Synod will be an online gathering as we continue to resist this awful coronavirus. It will begin with a live-streamed liturgy on the morning of Sunday May 16 (10:30) and will continue Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

The last year has taught us that the church can adapt and improvise in order to sustain and extend the life of faith in Christ. Thank you to everyone who has risen to the occasion, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That last phrase is a key one. We do this, any of this, only as we receive the power of the Holy Spirit as a gift from God. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead, never to die again, is at work among us. It is given to us and we receive it—and we become Jesus’ witnesses to the ends of the earth.

The underlying theme of our 2021 Synod is an exploration of how we can “yield to the life of the Holy Spirit”. Not the spirit of the times, nor the spirit of our own will, but to seek the direction of the Holy Spirit of God, the giver of life, the one who makes all things new. Again, we start with God’s identity and mission: what is the nature and purpose of the triune God? What kind of God is revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth? What can we know about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and in our lives and communities today?

Even in the midst of suffering, the news is good. The Word and Spirit of God are moving strongly in our midst to focus and commit us to Christ's ongoing, saving mission of reconciliation. In this focus and commitment, we will continue to find joy.

I'm really looking forward to "seeing" you on May 16 and 17.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Todd Townshend*

**The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend**  
**Bishop of Huron**