



Anglican Women of The Diocese of South Carolina Patricia Smith, President

Dear Women of God,

Reflecting on our new logo which depicts prayer, the scriptures, the fire of the Holy Spirit and the pelican, some thoughts come to mind for our spiritual life in Christ....

In the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord opens the discourse giving us a clear picture of what it looks like to be a citizen of the kingdom of God. The first fundamental attitude is "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This lays the foundation of God's description of our true "heart" identity as Christian women. The word "poor" here speaks to the image of a beggar, totally helpless, dependent on others for everything. Some have said that Christianity is merely one beggar telling another beggar where to get food.

This image is in stark contrast to some domineering voices of culture that try to dictate and at times scream at us to be "empowered" by our own self-worth. These voices can violate God's divine design for womanhood. As women of God, we are to have our dependence on God, God's Word being our plumb line, not popular opinion. We faithfully align our lives with the truth of God's Word, listening only to the voice of our Shepherd.

John 10:27-30, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

A beggar's most pressing need is food. "Daily bread," received through prayer, scripture, and with the guiding fire of the Holy Spirit, strengthens us to KNOW him. (3 of the 4 images in our logo) As we practice these daily disciplines and confessed sins are forgiven, our fellowship with Him and others becomes richer and deeper. Our souls are cleansed of the lies of the enemy. We more clearly recognize His voice and receive grace to follow Him. As our Bishop's wife has encouraged us before, the Daily Individual Prayers (page 136) and the Daily Office Lectionary (page 934) in the Book of Common Prayer, even the mobile app BCP, are unifying resources for making us Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age.

The bottom right quadrant of the logo features "the pelican in her piety." The pelican symbolizes self-sacrifice, love and generosity. Legends from antiquity state, "she pierces her breast to feed her children with her own blood" - an image of the atonement. The cross which runs through the center of the logo dominates our entire lifestyle as Christian women. His ultimate sacrifice atoned for our sins and paid for us to be truly free indeed. We have a mission to make Him known. We are to be guided by the voice of our Shepherd and equipped with the truth of the gospel. Through acts of piety, self-sacrifice, and love, we can lift up and direct other beggars to come to Jesus Christ, The Bread of Life.

He has no hands but our hands with which to give them bread,
No feet but our feet to walk among the almost dead.
We say that we are His and He is ours, deeds are the proof, not words and
These are the proving hours.
(Abridged and adapted from poems by Theresa of Avila and Annie Johnston Flint)

We pray our new logo will be a visible reminder to us of who God is, our true identity in Christ and what we are disciples of Christ. We are "women empowered," totally dependent on God's power, knowing Him, His voice, a God's divine design for our womanhood.

God's richest blessings,

Patricia Smith



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