

## **The Pioneers of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil**

The presence of Anglicans in Brazil is first recorded in the early nineteenth century and took the form of chaplaincies for English expatriates. It was not, however, until 1890 when missionary efforts among the Brazilian people began under the care of two Episcopal Church missionaries, Lucien Lee Kinsolving and James Watson Morris. They held the first service on Trinity Sunday 1890 in Porto Alegre. Within a year, three additional missionaries—William Cabell Brown, John Gaw Meem, and Mary Packard—arrived and joined the work. These five missionaries are the pioneers and considered the founders of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil.

In 1899, Kinsolving was made missionary bishop for the work in Brazil by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church, and in 1907 the missionary district of Brazil was established by The General Convention. The number of parishes and institutions continued to increase. The bishops

were raised up from among Episcopal Church missionaries who were serving in the missionary district. Fifty years after the work first began, in 1940, the first native Brazilian was elected to the episcopate, Athalício Theodoro Pithan.

By 1950, the work had increased to the point that the missionary district was too large and it was divided into three dioceses. This set the stage for the continued development of the church in Brazil, which eventually led to the formation of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil as an autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion in 1965. Complete financial independence from the Episcopal Church was completed by 1982, although the two churches continue to have strong bonds of affection and united mission efforts through companion diocese relationships and coordination at the church-wide level.

*Leader:* Peace on each one who comes in need,

*All:* ***Peace on each one who comes in joy.***

*Leader:* Peace on each one who offers prayers,

*All:* ***Peace on each one who offers song.***

*Leader:* Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,

*All:* ***Peace of the Spirit, the triune one.***

## **Psalm 125**

*Glorious things are spoken of you,  
Zion, city of our God.*

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, •  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem, •  
so the Lord stands round about his people,  
from this time forth for evermore.

3 The scepter of wickedness shall not hold sway

over the land allotted to the righteous, •  
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.

4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, •  
and to those who are true of heart.

5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways  
the Lord shall take away with the evildoers; •  
but let there be peace upon Israel.

*Glorious things are spoken of you,  
Zion, city of our God.*

*Leader:* O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding, which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes to the wonder and beauty of creation,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation: to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, the heart that sings,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* O God we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love made known to us in Jesus, and draw us into your presence.

## **Luke 4:14–21**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

## ***Sharing of the day***

### ***Prayer***

*Leader:* We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray; Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer; \_\_\_\_\_  
Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight \_\_\_\_\_  
Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God, silently, someone whom we find hard to like or forgive or trust  
Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring ourselves to God that we might grow in generosity of spirit,  
clarity of mind, and warmth of affection. Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

### ***Closing responses***

*Leader:* O Trinity of Love, You have been with us at the world's beginning,  
*All:* ***Be with us till the world's end.***

*Leader:* You have been with us at our life's shaping,  
*All:* ***Be with us at our life's end.***

*Leader:* You have been with us at the sun's rising  
*All:* ***Be with us till the day's end. Amen***

*All:* ***O God, since there is no distinction of race and origin, in you we are all one.  
Empower us to break down the barriers that still divide us, so that we may work in harmony  
with each other and with you. Amen***

*Leader:* May God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine on you and give you grace, may  
God's eyes light upon you and bring you peace. *Amen*

