



“With JOY we will draw deeply, from the fountain of salvation.”

Isaiah 12.3

A Message from Archbishop Anne: Motto for 2025

Friday, Jan 10 Commemoration of William Laud Archbishop of Canterbury

Dear Algoma friends,

I greet you with JOY at the beginning of a New Year as I give thanks for the many gifts God has bestowed upon us in the Diocese of Algoma. We see them in the beauty of God's creation in every deanery; we recognize them in one another as we joyfully serve Christ and one another. I give thanks for our shared commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and pray for God's blessing of peace and abundance will be with you this year.

The passage I have chosen for my 2025 motto and the theme for our 2025 Diocesan Synod (May 7th – 10th) is from the 12th chapter of the prophet Isaiah. It is a resurrection passage that speaks well into our present context in the church and in the world. These words were written over 2,700 years ago at a time when fear was very real.

The Assyrian Empire was the world dominant power casting a long shadow of doom and gloom over Judah. It was an era marked by constant crises in an unpredictable and out of control world. While our circumstances are slightly different, the daily news reminds us there are events happening beyond our control to manage, situations for which it is difficult to even imagine a positive outcome.

Into such a moment the prophet speaks a good word about steadfast trust instead of fear. Then he offers two songs, each one beginning with the same words, “You will say in that day...”

What is “that day”? It is the day when the name of God alone will be exalted. It is the day when idols will be cast aside. It is the day when the faithful will be called holy. It is the day when the displaced will be restored and the whole of creation set free.

‘That day’ is also a day of beckons people to look to God and live fully in their present moment and, no matter their circumstances, give thanks. What a word of hope and encouragement to anyone caught up in a time of fear – there are no earthly powers strong enough to defeat the power of God.

The first song is found early in the chapter and is sung by an individual offering thanksgiving to God. The second is found in verses 4 to 6 and is a communal song of thanksgiving. It’s as if a whole choir has joined in the chorus of offering praise to God

For me these two songs are reminiscent of Paul’s admonition to the Thessalonians to never stop rejoicing, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks to God in all circumstances. They invite us to adopt an attitude of gratitude in all seasons of life, a discipline that connects us to God and reminds us of God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.

In any time of uncertainty, we are urged to fix our eyes on God’s power and goodness, finding peace and strength in God, not merely as a distant promise, but as a living, active reality.

The verse that joins the two songs in Chapter 12 together is the verse I have chosen for my motto this year:

“With JOY we will draw deeply, from the fountain of salvation.”

Isaiah 12.3

It's a reminder that God is our salvation! This is as necessary an ingredient for life as water is. It is into the fountain of life in the triune God that we draw deeply this year. Jesus is the wellspring of life, offering the gift of Living Water to everyone who comes and asks for it.

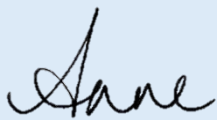
Drawing deeply from this fountain is what makes it possible for God's people to choose a posture of hope instead of despair, to look up instead of down and to believe that because of God's actions in the past that God is present in our lives right now. That God is a God who is for us. Therefore, we can, as individuals and as a diocese, TRUST and not be afraid.

In my New Year's Day sermon I gave at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa, I urged the church to sing a new song to the Lord, remembering that we are never alone in any struggles we might face and that together we embody the love and humility that Christ exemplified. For singing together is a powerful act of faith and solidarity. It transcends mere words, offering a communal expression of confidence in God.

The barren Hannah sang a song of triumph during travail and pain (1 Samuel 2.1-10). The teenage Mary, *theotokos* ('God bearer'), sang the Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55), her prophetic voice declaring that God is already overturning the world's structures.

Our habit and practice of singing together as the church is one of the oldest ways of reaching down, down, down into the depths of who we are to draw from the wellspring of life and abundance found in Jesus. As we begin a New Year with the chosen motto, let us join our voices in song, embracing God's love as an active, communal force—a love that sustains, transforms, and unites.

With every blessing of joy and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne". The script is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'A'.