

# **Inclusive Language Eucharist (2023) - Trial Use**

## **Guidance from** The Episcopal Diocese of Texas *Diocesan Liturgical Commission*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas offers this optional resource for priests desiring to use more inclusive language in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This material has been approved for trial use by the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, beginning in 2023.

The usage of this liturgy is completely optional.

Some may view these changes as minor. Yet it is hoped that some of the more notable word choices in the *1979 Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) are addressed by this liturgy.

As stated in the “Concerning the Celebration” section at the beginning of the liturgy, it is important that the liturgy is used as is, in its entirety, without picking and choosing from various liturgical resources.

Formation is key in introducing liturgical changes in a congregation. The people should be given an opportunity to consider the power of words and word choices, especially in our references to God and to people. Opportunity may also be given for feedback, in exploring how new expressions change or do not change the worship experience. Context is also important in contemplating liturgy, by discerning the congregational context, as well as the context of the wider community.

This trial use liturgy was developed based upon the research, discussion, and discernment of the diocesan Liturgical Commission, where principles on inclusive language were agreed upon, and approved by Bishop Doyle, in February 2020.

From those liturgical principles, a trial use liturgy was developed by the Liturgical Commission in 2020. In order to obtain feedback, that liturgy was then utilized for a time period, in 7 congregations in the diocese, with diversity as to locations and size. This liturgy, approved for trial use beginning in 2023, incorporates the feedback from those congregations.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In the liturgy document, changes from the 1979 BCP utilize a red font.

### Changed from the 1979 BCP:

Overall - Pronouns of “he” and “him” in reference to God are changed to “God” or another noun.

Eucharistic Prayer B – changed “sons and daughters” to “children.”

Eucharistic Prayer C – changed the address to God, as follows:  
“Lord God of our ancestors; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:”

Eucharistic Prayer D - “matriarchs” is added to “patriarchs.”

Offertory Sentences - changed “brother” to “sibling.”

Proper Preface for Baptism - changed “sons and daughters” to “children.”

### Not Changed from the 1979 BCP:

Pronouns of “he” and “him” are still used for “Jesus” and “Holy Spirit.”

Traditional language for the Trinity is retained as “God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

The words “Lord” and “kingdom” are retained due to their theological and scriptural importance and history.

The words of the Nicene Creed and the Sanctus are retained.