



## What Does That Mean?

*As we celebrate the 2019 Book of Common Prayer, it seems an appropriate time to review some of the vernacular that we use in our worship service. Here's one of those terms.*

### What is the "Collect for Purity"? Why this term?

The "Collect for Purity" is a prayer of supplication to set the tone for our worship that immediately follows the "Acclamation." The Celebrant begins this prayer, and the congregation joins in by reciting the collect with the Celebrant. It is one of the ancient manuscripts preserved by Alcuin and is based on Luke 10:27, Psalm 139, and Hebrews 4:13.

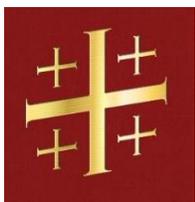
#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant prays (and the People may be invited to join)

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Thomas Cranmer translated this 11<sup>th</sup> Century Latin prayer and incorporated it into the 1549 Book of Common Prayer. This rich collect traces its roots back to St. Augustine's *Roman Rite* and was subsequently used in both the *Leofric Missal* of 900 AD and the *Stowe Missal* written before the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The Collect for Purity orients us as we start our worship on the God who created us, saved us, and guides us. It humbles us before the all-knowing God reminding us that He loves perfectly and wants that from us: our hearts, our minds, our souls – all of us. It also beckons the Holy Spirit to set us on a path of righteousness by cleansing our thoughts so we can better honor Him and be worthy of His Name as we live out our lives.



#### Sources:

- Living Church
- Holy Trinity Parish of Ocean Beach
- Anglican Parish of Hamilton

