# FORWARD DAY

# **READERS' GUIDE**

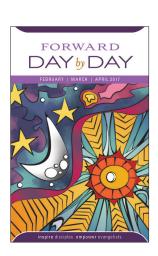
**MARCH 2017** 

#### **HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

You can use the *Forward Day by Day* Readers' Guide in many ways: on your own to enhance your experience of the month's meditations; gather a group from your parish to explore these questions together; or join in the discussion with Forward Movement's online community by visiting us at www.ForwardMovement.org or by following us on Facebook.

# ABOUT THE COVER

The artwork for this issue presents the splendor of the moment of Creation. Sun, moon, stars, meteors, and the vast expanse of interstellar space are reflected in this beautiful piece of color and wonder.



# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**MARCH 4:** What part of you is longing for reunion with God? How might an awareness of this longing be part of your Lenten observance?

**March 9:** When and how do you experience rest? Do you need more of it? How can you get it?

**MARCH 12:** Is God calling you to leave something behind in order for you to move forward in your life?

**MARCH 14:** Have you ever experienced the kind of prayer that begins when the words end?

**MARCH 20:** How do you make sure that you are growing—not just aging?

**MARCH 23:** Do you sometimes feel like your heart is divided? How can you live more wholeheartedly?

**MARCH 29:** How have you experienced God as a potter, shaping your life and the life of your community?

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

The 2017 covers of *Forward Day by Day* have been created by artist **Roger Speer** exclusively for Forward Movement. These pieces, and over 20 more, are featured in *The Path: A Journey Through the Bible*; an adult coloring book, *Pathways of Faith*;



and *The Path: A Family Storybook*, available from Forward Movement. Examples of Roger's artwork can be found at www.speerpoint.etsy.com. He and his wife Fran live in Georgia with their son Fynn.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



Mike Marsh is the rector of Saint Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde, Texas. He has also served on the adjunct faculty at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. You can read more of Mike's work on his blog,

interrupting the silence.com. He and his wife Cyndy are the parents of two children.

### THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

At the end of every meditation in Forward Day by Day is the day's entry for the Anglican Cycle of Prayer (ACP). Maintained by the Anglican Communion Office in England, the ACP is a way to pray for every diocese and province in the Anglican Communion over a period of two years. The Anglican Communion has eighty million members in more than 160 countries—reflecting an astounding array of languages, cultures, and ministries.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer Spotlight: Forward Movement and Episcopal Relief & Development invite you to pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world and with special intention for the Anglican Diocese of Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil is the largest and most populated country in South America. One-third of Brazilians live below the poverty line and, according to a study conducted by Episcopal Relief & Development and the Anglican Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, one in three women have suffered from exposure to violence. In an environment marked by chaos and uncertainty, many victims of gender-based violence suffer from symptoms of trauma, debilitating stress and anxiety, which impact their self-perception and their relationships with others.

In addition to the issue of poverty, these lasting repercussions of crime and domestic violence in sprawling urban areas of Brazil pose major obstacles to community health and individual



livelihoods. Episcopal Relief & Development continues to respond to issues of poverty and gender-based violence in Brazil through the Servicio Anglicano de Diacono e Desenvolvimento (SADD), the development arm of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil. SADD is tasked with building the capacity of diocesan representatives through technical support and training to manage, monitor and evaluate social development projects across the country. SADD supports nine dioceses and pursues a mission to transform lives and affirm values that promote social change. Bishop-elected volunteers help SADD work locally to train and empower diocesan contacts engaged in projects to impact the social, emotional and spiritual transformation of marginalized people in Brazil.

Episcopal Relief & Development has chosen SADD as a primary partner to help it achieve that vision: in a recent consultation with our staff, SADD decided to initiate a three-year (2015-2017) Integrated Provincial Strategic Plan that incorporates gender rights and gender-based violence prevention into its programs. The strategic plan will align those goals with the Church's own vision, creating unity across programs and maximizing potential to achieve a common goal of addressing violence and poverty in Brazil. - See more at: http://www.episcopalrelief.org/where-we-work/country/ brazil#sthash.f51ZmUTQ.dpuf



We're eager to hear what you and your readers' group discover in your discussions. Share your thoughts and insights:

www.forwardmovement.org | rthompson@forwardmovement.org | 800-543-1813 Connect with authors and other Forward Day by Day readers: www.facebook.com/forwarddaybyday | www.twitter.com/forwarddaybyday