

John Horden, Missionary Bishop (1828-1893)

*Observed 15 December*



John Horden was the first Anglican Bishop of Monsonee, Although apprenticed to a blacksmith in his native England, young John Horden persisted in his education and became a schoolmaster. In this position he was able to pursue his own studies further, both in academic disciplines and in Bible at his local Church of England congregation. He was excited by mission work, and although at first rejected as too young, was eventually called to a mission in Rupert's Land (the vast holdings of the Hudson's Bay Company in North America). At 23, he was appointed schoolmaster in Moose Factory, Ontario and told to marry him a wife and head out. On the trip over, he worked to learn the basics of the Cree language and with his wife made a great success of their school. Horden soon began the work of translating hymns and worship texts into Cree, along with the Gospels. He sent his manuscript back to England for printing, but the printer had

no way to proof the printed texts – so he sent a printing press to Horden (without instructions). Horden eventually worked out how to work the press and proudly created many books for the local people, which greatly assisted in the spread of the Gospel. During this time he was ordained a priest to minister to both Company people and the local native population. In 1872 Father Horden was summoned to England to be ordained Bishop and for the last 20 years of his life worked tirelessly to care for his huge diocese. – *Raggs Ragan+*

*Lessons*        Numbers 10:29-36; Psalm 107:35-43; Acts 6:1-7; Luke 5:1-11

*Collect*        Creator God, whose hands hold the storehouses of the snow and the gates of the sea, and from whose Word springs forth all that is: We bless your holy Name for the intrepid witness of your missionary John Horden, who followed your call to serve the Cree and Inuit nations of the North. In all the places we travel, may we, like him, proclaim your Good News and draw all into communion with you through your Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.