

Sunday Prayers 3.3.2024
By Rev. Karen Locken

Gracious God, the concept of resurrection can be as foreign as another language and as real as our next breath. When you speak of raising up the temple and we begin to understand your meaning of that, we can trust that your Word, your means of grace, your Spirit will be moving among us always as we strive to be your church in the world. Help us to do your will. Help us to love each other. Help us to be your church wherever we go—not just on Wednesdays or Sundays...but everyday—even in the most far reaching corners of the planet. Help us see that your plan for the future is beyond our imaginations...and your compassion for us all knows no boundaries. We need all that you have to offer—for us and all of creation. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, we are not here to be a marketplace and we struggle with how to economically deal with the realities of being a church in the modern world. We have a preschool. We have a gallery. We have means of doing ministry in important ways—or at least that is how we understand it. Make sure we are focused on sharing your love, being your love, creating spaces for your love to be learned, experienced and practiced in ways that mend our souls, our sanctuaries and our world with mercy. May we be instruments of your love, your peace, and your justice always. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Healing and Hope, there are so many among us—some in our community, some in our family, some who are here today—suffering with the seasonal stuff as well as chronic things... as well as cancerous things...as well as cardiac things....to mention a few. There are so many things we individually and collectively have to deal with related to health and well being. Bring your healing power to those who are dealing with hard diagnoses, to those struggling with the seasonal yuck, and to those whose mental health challenges keep them from embracing their world with joy and hope. Surround them with people who can help guide them forward. Bring healing to each of them in whatever ways healing is available. Sustain their circle of support by granting energy, humility, compassion, courage and grace to everyone that is part of it. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of New Life, we give thanks for babies growing and for the joy that comes when new life is real. We also give thanks for the promise of resurrection that surrounds the end of earthly experiences. Resurrection is a tough thing to wrap our minds around—we see it in the buds of springtime, in the colors we know will come from the bulbs waiting to rise above the horizon with color and blossoms and yet, we don't fully understand what it means for the people we love especially when we have lost them in death. Help those who are walking with the kind of grief that is heavy to bear. Especially right now, we remember:

- Jim and Linda Marty Schmitz on the death of their friend JoAn Lange
- Warren and Heather Meyer on the death of Heather's mom, Lois.

Hold them in love and mend them with mercy as they find their way forward with hope. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creator of All That is, Wow! We live in a spectacular place. We breathe air every day without thinking about the sustenance it provides. We consume water for our well being—drinking it, washing with it, and enjoying the simple pleasure of it appearing when we turn the faucet on. It is clear. It is clean. Help us know the value of air and water, of food and shelter, of hope and healthy ways of living on this planet. Remind us to be recyclers, re-users, renewers and always mindful of how we might make this place better for all the generations to come. We've got skin in this game as we see children and grandchildren, neighbors and friends. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands we commend ourselves, our community, our congregation, all we love and all we have not yet met. Care for us all in ways that create us anew each day. Amen.