

Sunday Prayers.2.18.2024

Sunday Prayers:

Holy One, today we hear again about the way your Son was tempted in the wilderness. We like to think of the wilderness as the places where people go and get lost—as those places far away where we wander to only if we choose to go there. We want our wilderness experiences to lead us to a sense of sabbath and renewal. That is the process we are talking about isn't it? For sure, like your Son, we can find ourselves in the wilderness in far away places and also within our own minds—in cities and local villages, in restaurants with friends as well as alone in our beds at 3AM. The wilderness is never very far away and it can be frightening when we find ourselves in a place that feels empty, lonely and dark. Help us avoid temptations that taint our perspectives. Help us trust that you have dwelled in that space...long enough...to know the depth of our longing and despair. Help us always find a way forward. May the wilderness thereby always become a place that transitions us to full on grace with You. Lord in your mercy....

God of Creation, the future needs tending. It needs us to think in terms of “refugia”—a biological term describing places of shelter where life endures in times of crisis, such as a volcanic eruption, fire, or stressed climate. Ideally, these refugia endure, expand, and connect so that new life emerges. Help us to think, act and nurture refugia solutions. Open us to be creative with opportunities that are able to bring healing to all of creation. Lord in your mercy...

Holy Healer, recoveries from illness can be slow. Whether it was a life sustaining surgery, or a seasonal virus, or a chronic or long term illness, healing can seem to take forever to the one in need of the healing. Bring them patience by the truckload, a powerful spirit of hope, and a triple serving of energy to let the healing come. Give them good sleep and crazy good dreams. May they imagine wellness in whatever way it can happen. Allow their caregivers, that same spirit and energy, too. May the healing that happens bring a sense of renewed zest for life, for love and compassion for all that are finding their way through the anatomy and anxiety of an illness. Lord in your mercy...

God of Lent, in this season we are finding our way. Many of us have known it as a dismal season of minor chords and major internal soul searing. It is not about that. You are helping us grow. You are helping us believe we are much more than weak, weary people destined to disappoint you. Thank you. Thank you for helping us see that Lent is an opportunity to focus on how we live, how we love, how we serve, how we live in partnership with you and all of your people. May these 40 days be life altering and life giving ways of seeing our relationship with you and our human kin. Help us know your love...to experience it in its fullness as we celebrate the Easter that already is. Lord in your mercy...

Holy God, if we love...we also grieve. Whether it was a week ago, or months ago, or years ago...when we have loved people who have died, we miss them. We miss the sound of their voice, the way they looked in the late afternoon light, the way they laughed and how their hand felt in ours. We also grieve losses that come from misunderstandings, and mistakes, and mistrust. Guide us into your grace. Let us deposit our grief into your care. Particularly, be with all whose grief is acute today. Lord in your mercy...

Holy Wonder, thank you. Thank you for the people in our congregation that serve at the food pantry, and Waunakee Neighborhood Connection...and are volunteering with Cara Waunakee to help settle refugee families in our larger community. Thank you for the people who are doing things subtly and singly to make the world a better place. Thank you for empowering the people here...right now...these people...to love in the best ways they know how. Let them know that even if no one notices...you do...and the differences they are making in this world

are stunning. Keep us going. Keep us loving. Keep us renewed with your grace and mercy.
Please and Thank you! Amen.