

Sunday Prayers.4.21.2024

God of Resurrection, as we ponder your Word, as we hear your command for us to love, as we revisit the conversation of Jesus and Peter about the work the church is called to be about—the work of loving and feeding sheep, help us ponder anew what we are being called to do as your people in this place right now. Guide us forward with grace, lead us with love, energize us with enough of your Spirit, your truth, your vibrant reality—that we see, hear and respond to all that needs tending within us, within our community and within our world. Help us be your church—the one that loves you...and feeds your sheep. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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...

Protector of us All, please guard and care for the lives of all those involved in service to others. In addition to the ones we so often name—the police, EMS, firefighters, health care workers and military personnel, we add caretakers of the ill, homemakers to the world's refugees, hope bearers of the people who speak truth to power and lead with love. Help us see all the people who make your presence known in the daily work they do and thereby make the world a softer place to live. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of New Life, We 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 popping out all over, in the colors we see coming from the bulbs rising 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. Especially right now, we remember those who are holding heavy grief. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Easter, as we celebrate resurrection, help us ponder what it is to be human...to be alive. Help us see and experience how you exist in our world...what you have created each of us to do, and whether or not we are living the way you have called us to live. Help us to be opened to new ways, new possibilities, new opportunities to love one another as you have loved us. You came for all people. Help us value human life over chaos. Help us see that you value love over hate. Help us live and lead with love. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer..

Lord of the Living, We give thanks for this world you have given us—for the trees and the water, for the ever changing scenery and the new life of spring, for the seasons—that show us how the earth works, for the oxygen that fills our lungs. Help us see our role in your world...the one we share with our human kin. Help us and help our leaders...lead with love. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray...Amen.