

Sunday Prayers.4.28.2024

God of Easter, thanks for the post resurrection stories. Thanks for opportunities—like waking up today. Thanks for the fresh reality of being alive. Every day is a fresh possibility—no matter our health, our age, our circumstances—to bask in your love—and to do our best to try to love the world again. It is, of course, easier when the sun is shining...but in the midst of whatever is today...help us feel your love and do our best to share it in ways that matter. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Hearer and Healer, we want to be healthy and whole. We want it physically, emotionally, and also spiritually. Help us be open to new ways of thinking about things, to new ways of feeling about things...to fresh ways of seeing ourselves. We are often critical of the bodies we inhabit. We are often critical of our failures—as if they are the whole of us. They aren't. Help us see ourselves as clay...with you as the potter...with the opportunity to be made new every day...and within that every moment. Give us hope...in real ways...Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, We are often critical of how the world works and wishing you were a more controlling power. Sometimes, we want you to be a magician that is like a fairy godmother and makes all of our wishes come true. But you are different. You are subtle and as present as the air we breathe—constantly moving among us and around us inviting us to solve problems, love our human kin, and be all that you have created us to be and become. It is hard work you call us to be about. And yet, your Spirit points us forward. Help us listen...and learn...and then, to the best of our ability...help us love...ourselves...and each other...and all the others everywhere... Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creator of Creation, you know the truth of the cosmos. You know the ways we need to live for the environment to thrive. Why are we so resistant? Help us in the midst of things we don't fully understand to act for the good of generations to come. Help us be open to making decisions that go beyond world economics. Help us preserve and protect your creation. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Lord, we give thanks for the young people in our midst who are graduating from high school this year. We honor some of them today and will honor some more of them in the weeks to come. Schedules are busy. These students are talented and engaged in so many wonderful things. Bless their growing. Bless their becoming. Guard their futures and love them always. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious One, we pray for all who grieve. That is most of us—for one reason or another. We have all lost someone we love and feel the finitude of life—sometimes so much so that we are unable to see hope. And yet, we are your people living in the shelter of your promise. Help us somehow see the truth of that resurrection reality in such beautiful ways throughout your creation—night into day, light easing darkness, blooms that come from bulbs and seeds we place in the ground. Today, we pray for those whose grief is pressing in on them...especially we remember those who have recently lost people they love... Hold all who grieve...tightly...so tightly that they can feel the pulse of resurrection in the pulse of their own lives. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we offer our lives and our futures. Bless our growing. Bless our becoming. Amen.