

Sunday Prayers 3.1.2026

Holy and Gracious God, Nicodemus ponders the questions of faith...not unlike the ones we do. Where are you when we divide ourselves over inconsequential things like who is the most important team between women or men who win Olympic hockey gold medals? Seriously, God. When will we discover that you are the real deal...like Nicodemus did...and that you came for the whole world...and everyone in it? Why can't we celebrate all the diversity that you have created? Why can't we be kind and generous in ways that welcome everyone's talents and beings with joy? Why can't we be the communities of love you have asked us to be? Please move us forward with mercy, unite us in your love and embolden us to love all the others. Lord in your Mercy...hear our prayer.

Holy Healer, the winter yuck has descended. Norovirus, Influenza, RSV, Covid, you name it, it is living among us. Please bring expedient recovery from these viruses. Also, there are people dealing with much more profound and long term illnesses, mental health issues, and all the challenges these things bring. Please bring your healing power to heal whatever is possible. Please bring your patience to all who are suffering. Please bring endurance to all who are caregiving. Please bring wisdom to the medical teams who are tending all these health concerns. And, please bring peace—the kind that passes all understanding—everyday—to all who are somewhere in this healing continuum of care. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, grieving and lamenting, is part of our reality as humans. There is an abundance of grief and lament swirling in our midst. We can turn to the psalms. We can turn to you in our distress. Hear our cries when we miss people we love. Hear our despair when we lose jobs without understanding how we will pay bills or have healthcare. Hear our concern for our neighbors who have needs beyond those we can satisfy. We are needing your help in these days—to mend so many things with mercy. This day we pray for those who are newly grieving:
Roy Bentley and the Bentley family on the death of Anna.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Creation, The earth is gorgeous. Within our own country we have lakes and rivers, oceans and streams, mountains and plains, hills and valleys that are absolutely beautiful beyond our imagination. Have you noted

all the amazing kinds of trees? Have you seen the colors of the sky? Have you experienced the variation in landscapes? Help us protect what needs protecting. Help us share the amazing places that need to be shared by all. Help us be reminded that we are guests here...in this place and time in the history of this planet. Help us make sure it is ready and available for those who come next. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Giver of Life, it is winter. It has been cold, sometimes sunny, sometimes gray—but long. We are excited for warmth and new life. We are hopeful for blossoms and birdsong—color and outdoor events. Give us the patience we need to make it to spring. Give us good friends, tasty food, warm fires, great reads, soft pillows and starlit nights. Any grace you have, any hope you have, any courage you have, please refuel us for everything we are encountering in these days. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, Gracious God, we commend ourselves, our neighbors, our communities—our country. Please integrate your vision within us and among us. Infuse us with whatever we need most this day. Amen.