

BOOK of PRAYERS

2024-2027

VOLUME 8



**UNITED
THANK
OFFERING**

INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

This little book contains original prayers offered by individuals throughout The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion and sent to the United Thank Offering over the past three years. Together, these many prayers form one grateful voice. We hope you reach for it at times such as the beginning or end of meetings, for devotions, and to inspire your own practice of gratitude.

United Thank Offering welcomes new, unpublished prayers for the next edition of Book of Prayers in 2027; you can submit yours using the QR code on the back of this booklet. If you would like resources to help you create prayers to submit (either as an individual or a group), please visit www.unitedthankoffering.com/pray.



Thanks to all who contributed and support the mission and ministry of United Thank Offering.

Karin Elsen
UTO Board President 2024-2027

ABOUT UTO

In 1889, after several successful thank offerings collected during worship, two Episcopal women envisioned a way to collect small thank offerings in homes as a personal expression of gratitude, and from this, our modern day United Thank Offering (UTO) was born. Today, UTO members, through their daily personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, continue to make thank offerings, and every penny given in thanksgiving is then given away in grant funding to missions and ministries seeking to live Jesus' way of love. UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. More than 5,300 grants have been awarded thus far by UTO (for a total of \$140 million) to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

To find out more about the United Thank Offering, visit <https://unitedthankoffering.com/how/>.



To support the work of the United Thank Offering, visit www.unitedthankoffering.com/give/.



UNITED THANK OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we come before you in the knowledge that although we are varied in our gifts, we are united as laborers of your harvest. With grateful hearts, we give thanks for the blessings and challenges that inspire the work of the United Thank Offering. May the offerings given to UTO as an expression of gratitude go on to address the needs of our ever-changing world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, whose life is a blueprint we strive to follow.

Amen.

UNITED THANK OFFERING BLUE BOX PRAYER

Almighty God, I give you praise
for blessing me in many ways.
Create in me a grateful heart
and with this gift a blessing start.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

Holy and gracious God, we give you thanks today for the United Thank Offering and all who participate in the spiritual discipline of gratitude. We give thanks for our history: for the inspiration and wisdom You planted in women who were called and responded to the needs of innovative mission and ministry, especially by women. Together Ida Soule and Julia Chester Emery created a united offering which we continue today, and we also thank you for the work of all Emery sisters: Julia Chester Emery, Mary Emery Twing, Helen Winthrop Emery, and Margaret Theresa Emery. These mighty sisters worked on behalf of missionaries, their families, and single women in service here and abroad.

We also are grateful for the generations of unnamed women who have led and participated in UTO – for their dedication, care and discipline. We ask that you bless all of us who have dedicated ourselves to the practice and discipline of gratitude, and all who will continue this work. May You continue to bless the United Thank Offering, calling others to join in our daily thanksgivings.

Most importantly, we ask You to uphold, bless and guard all those ministries that have received UTO funds to continue to be a sign of Your love to our broken world. Dear God, we thank You for all of the blessings of this life, given freely as a sign of Your grace. Amen.

MEETINGS & CONGREGATIONS

EASTER PRAY FOR BURYING ALLELUIA BURYING THE “A” WORD

When we give God our joyous praise
use a word that starts with A
Except during the days of Lent
When we are quiet and penitent

and hide the joyful words we say,
Like that one that starts with A
Today we hide that special word
‘Til Easter Day it won’t be heard
Then it will come forth from its tomb’
And find its voice, and fill the room
Meanwhile we will pray and fast
Til we can shout our joy at last!
So rest well word that starts with A,
We’ll see you again in 40 days

Rev. Barbara Ballenger
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Glenside
Diocese of Pennsylvania

PRAYER FOR OUR ALTAR GUILD

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing for the members of our Altar Guild as they prepare our Altar and Chancel area for the _____services that will be held during Holy Week. Assist them with the attention to detail that the unique nature of each Holy Week service involves. Grant them a wonderful spiritual journey during Holy Week. Inspire members of our parish family to thank our Altar Guild members for the important “behind-the-scenes” work that they do and motivate members of our parish family to become members of our Altar Guild.

**Vicki Van Rensselaer
St. James Episcopal Church, Bozeman
Diocese of Montana**

COLLECT FOR CHURCH PLANTING

Almighty God of boundless grace and mercy, who sent forth Thy Holy Spirit to ignite the human family in Thy fiery love- we humbly beseech Thee to send to us that same Spirit, Peter's gracious advocate through Luke's testament, so to flower and flourish a church for all those who need Thy warm embrace. Be present O merciful God, in the continued discernment, formation, and advancement of this church, Thy Son our savior Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. Amen.

Br. Christian Ventura OP
Grace and St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Maryland

CLOSING A MEETING/GATHERING

Our Father,

As we finish our time together, I am so thankful. We have been blessed with special Christian women so willing to serve and care for each other. We ask for guidance as we serve in our ministries. Thank you for our health and our many blessings. We pray for all those in need.

In Your name we pray,
Amen.

**Mrs. Andrea Geiger
Province IV Church Periodical Club Representative,
Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Florida**

NATIONS AND MILITARY SERVICE

MILITARY

My Heavenly Father,
Please bless all of our military personnel -- Let us always remember that “freedom is not free”; that our military men and women made the ultimate sacrifice for us and our freedom. Please place your “Shield of Protection” around all who serve our great country and return them safely home to their families. Let them feel your presence with them and know that their battles are not in vain but are a victory to keep our country strong and free.
Amen.

Mrs. Judy Spree
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Boligee
Diocese of Alabama

FOR OUR COUNTRY

Dear God, we pray for your great healing of our country. We need you now more than ever before. Lord, I thank you for allowing me to live in this beautiful country.

Lord, I also thank you for allowing me to live in a place that lets me pray every day, and Lord, I thank you for the blessing this country is to me and my family. Lord, I pray for this country's safety, and I ask you to bless our soldiers who guard our country's borders. Amen.

**Mrs. Virginia Grimes
St. James' Episcopal Church, Livingston
Diocese of Alabama**

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

Merciful and Heavenly Father,
To who all things belong and tremble; the world and all that is in it belong to you, bring your love, peace and hope to this broken world, so that your people may live together in peace and harmony.

Cause wars here on earth, particularly between Russia and Ukraine and the allies, in DRC, etc... to stop no matter the cause. Help all the power holders to use it for the benefit of your people in those countries and beyond. May decision makers use the opportunity they are given to serve you and only decide that which is according to your will.

May your kingdom come in our life today. Help us, oh Lord, to seek to honor you in every word, every thought, every action, every decision. May we all express your love and justice in every relationship, at home and at work, in the community and in the country and in the whole world.

All praises be to you, Oh God, King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

Rev. Félibien Ndintore
Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi
Anglican Communion

FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE U.S. ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 AND THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Our Father in Heaven, we ask that you hold a special place in your heart for all of the innocent people who were killed or injured as a result of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. on September 11, 2001. Grant them an abundance of wonderful experiences in eternal life and for the remainder of their lives on earth. Assure them that they are not forgotten by numerous people throughout the world. Strengthen and comfort their relatives and friends who are still mourning for them or caring for them. Remind humankind that peace on earth is attainable if people treat one another with love, kindness and generosity. Amen.

**Vicki Van Rensselaer
St. James Episcopal Church, Bozeman
Diocese of Montana**

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Father in Heaven, as we remember all men and women who have died while serving in the armed forces, may we also remember the daily sacrifices of personal freedom that those men and women made while serving our country and may we never take those sacrifices for granted. We ask you to make their relatives and friends aware of how eternally grateful we are for the service of their loved ones. Amen.

Vicki Van Rensselaer
St. James Episcopal Church, Bozeman
Diocese of Montana

GRATITUDE

THANK YOU FOR MUSIC

Father,

Thank you for music. For the emotions it can make us feel. For the memories it brings back. For allowing us to express ourselves through it. For all that is behind it.

It allows us to remember you made this world full of beautiful and diverse people, that express thoughts and feelings in different ways.

But most of all, for the way it brings us together.

Thank you for letting us share in your creation through music.

Amen.

**Daniela C.
Acolyte, 15
Trinity Episcopal Church
Natchez, Mississippi**

GRATITUDE

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, I come to you with a grateful heart, for the mercy and grace you have shown me during this past year after the loss of my beloved husband. I did not believe that I could lift myself back up, but you have shown me that because you gave us your precious Son to live and die for us and rise again, no situation in life is never hopeless and we are never helpless. I know by this Blessed Assurance that I will see him again, and I look forward to that day. With a grateful heart, in Jesus' name I pray, amen.

**Mrs. Rosalie Dew
St. James' Episcopal Church
Livingston, Alabama**

A PRAYER WHEN TRAVELING

Gracious and abundant God,

I give thanks for the felt presence of the Holy Spirit calling me to pause as I prepare to leave my hotel room.

I give thanks for my sanctuary these past nights;

Thanks for my comfort;

Thanks for the cleanliness;

Thanks for hot water;

Thanks for my safety;

Thanks for the quiet;

Thanks for the experience of my trip;

And thanks to housekeepers. Bless them.

Amen.

**Karin E.
United Thank Offering Board
Diocese of Colorado**

It's not easy, dear Lord to be grateful for the irritating, frustrating, disappointing days. It's not easy to be thankful for rudeness, inconvenience, or times and places when we ourselves are not our best. It's not easy.

Help us to see your goodness. How it shines through someone's kind words. Through an email written with wisdom, or a smile from a stranger. Help us to recognize even in the midst of whatever is troubling us, that there is something for which to be grateful. It may be basic, it may be tiny, but it is there. Help us, dear Lord to see it and to remember to thank you.

**Barb Hagen
St Peter's Cathedral
Helena, Montana**

O God of Hope
We thank you for the miracle of growth
Growth of our gardens, plants, flowers
Growth of our spirit, our wisdom and our courage
O God of Hope
We thank you.

**Barb Hagen
St Peter's Cathedral
Helena, Montana**

GOD'S BLESSINGS

He turns darkness into Light,
He changes sorrows into joy.
He strengthens the weak and makes us strong.
He reminds us daily of His Love.
We are blessed.
We are blessed.
We are truly blessed.

Kathy Lenox
UTO Parish Coordinator
St. Mary the Virgin, Gardiner
Diocese of Oregon

THANK YOU

Dear God, thank you for puffy clouds and blue skies.

Thank you for laughs and happy cries.

Thank you for beautiful birds and flowers.

Thank you for peace beyond our powers.

Thank you for freedom, grace, and hope.

Thank you for giving us your Word to cope.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Mrs. Amy Madison
Church of the Highlands
Diocese of Alabama**

I AM THANKFUL

I am thankful for you.

I am thankful for the sunshine.

I am thankful for my faith.

I am thankful for yesterday.

I am thankful for today.

I am thankful for the setting sun.

I am thankful for tomorrow.

I am thankful.

**Alice Briscoe Brown
Calvary St Augustine Episcopal Church,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

A PRAYER FOR VULNERABILITY

Dear God, thank you for giving us the example of authenticity and for all of the ways you encourage us to be the signs of love in the world you created us to be. Help us to be strong enough and wise enough to know when it is time to set aside our armor, and help us to be a safe person so that others might be able to be vulnerable with us. We ask that you send your Spirit to embolden us to remain curious about the world around us and to help us to be brave enough to wrestle with vulnerability. Help us to remember that we are all created to be good and created in the image of goodness, for which we are very grateful. Amen.

Cannon Heather Melton
Staff Officer, United Thank Offering

THANK YOU GOD

Thank you God for my food. Please let all the kids in the world to have food on their tables. I pray for all the people in the hospitals and in the whole world to heal and to be blessed.

Amen.

**Brodie Marie Memba
7 years old
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Pennsylvania**

FOR HELPERS
(IN THE SPIRIT OF THE REV. FRED ROGERS)

Dear God,
thank you for all the helpers,
 they keep us safe,
 they help us learn and improve,
 they think about others,
 they are kind,
 and they say please and thank you.
Help us to all be helpers.
Amen.

Lucy Melton
Age 9

THANK YOU LORD

Lord, I thank you for this day and for allowing me to see all your wonders. Thank you for all your blessings. I ask you to guide me to be better every day, to serve you and to see your face in every person I meet.

Amen.

**Rosalinda Memba
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Pennsylvania**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE DURING ILLNESS

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing me through the perils and dangers of this world, and giving me a second chance at life. Thank You for the doctors, nurses, family, and friends who cared for me and prayed with me throughout my illness. Thank You, Father, for easing my pain and suffering, and bringing me to a point where I can face another day knowing that You are with me all the way. Dear Father, I know that You have a plan in everything You do.

Grant me the strength and courage to face the days ahead. Give me the wisdom to accept those things I cannot change and the guidance to follow Your will for the rest of my days.

This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Ms. Vernese Smith
St. David's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Long Island**

Our Father in heaven, I am blessed in so many ways and find strength in the knowledge that you are with me always, through the good times and the bad. Your love and my faith have sustained me when I did not think I could go on. You are my light on a cloudy day. Where would I be without my faith in you? I praise your name, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mathy Milling Downing
St. John's, Olney
Diocese of Washington

A COLLECT FOR THANKSGIVING

God of abundance, your blessings overflow. In this harvest time, we give thanks for the gifts that nourish us, and we ask that you show us where we may nourish others whose hunger is not filled, who live in deserts instead of orchards, barren land instead of fruitful. Make us gardens. In the name of Jesus Christ, the incarnation of your grace, Amen.

**Rev. Cara Ellen Modisett
Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton, Va.
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia**

THANK YOU!

Dear Heavenly Father from whom comes every good and perfect gift, I give you humble thanks for my numerous earthly blessings. What a marvel is Your world and its myriad of wildlife and flora, all of which work together as part of the circle of life! You have blessed me with family both blood and through friendships, and I am overflowing with gratitude! For adequate shelter, sustenance, and life's necessities, I praise You mightily. In the name of Jesus Christ Your son, I give you never-ending praise. Amen.

**Mrs. Maggie Noland
United Thank Offering Board
Diocese of Alabama**

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Hollie Olson
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Washington

GRATITUDE

Gratitude

Sparrows perch on the stone ledge
outside my window, looking in.

I watch them
over the black bloom of espresso

flowering in a white ceramic cup
that reads I heart New York.

The moon is a sliver of fingernail
fading into morning.

Shortly all this will disappear.
I hold tight to everything:

birds, coffee,
cup, New York, moon.

Dr. Donna Pucciani
Trinity Episcopal Church,
Wheaton, IL
Diocese of Chicago

THE LORD'S PRAYER, AN ADAPTION

Sacred are the many names of God,
The Divine light within us, among us,
and beyond.

We give thanks for God's presence, manifest in
all of Creation.

In the Spirit of God, let us
share our daily bread with those in need,
forgive ourselves and each other and be
reconciled,
resist all manner of temptation and evil,
strive for justice and peace for all people.

For God is the Wonder, the Wisdom, and the Mystery,
forever and ever. Amen.

Larry Rankin
Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst
Diocese of Massachusetts

DAILY GRATITUDE

Dear Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ,
Thank you for this day. Thank you for this life. Thank you for another opportunity to live out the life you have created and redeemed me for. Thank you for all that you have blessed me with - my life is full. Thank you for my faith. Thank you for your mercy and goodness. I am a sinner and I ask for your forgiveness and for your guidance to live a life in your name and your will. I ask that today you guide me; show me how I can best serve you. I ask that you let me hear you and show me where in my life I am lacking; show me what is keeping me from being closer to you. I love you and I praise you and I thank you.
Amen.

**Randallyne S.
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Asheville
Diocese of North Carolina**

MY THANKS TO GOD

Dear God

Thank you for the peace that only you can give.

Thank you for the way you keep me on track and focused.

Thank you for all the gifts you gave me in life.

Thank you for my health, family, and friends.

Thank you for my four-legged animals who bring me comfort and joy.

Thank you for all my blessings that come from you.

Thank you for the tears you bring to me when I feel you in my heart.

Those moments fill me like a glass filled with cool water.

Amen.

**Barbara Schafer
Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Arizona**

A GRATEFUL HEART

Heavenly Father, we have so much to be grateful for each and every day, and we are so thankful for the gift of being able to see your goodness and many blessings in our lives that occur daily.

Please grant us the ability to see even more clearly these many blessings by allowing us to see them through the lens of a grateful heart. All too often, we lose sight of these blessings when we allow the negative things of this world to weigh us down with worry and feelings of being overwhelmed. It is instead through our faith that we are able to more fully know and appreciate hope and love, and we ask you to constantly remind us through our trials that these challenges are instead an opportunity to grow ever closer to you.

With a loving and grateful heart and in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Mrs. Lori Smith
St. Luke's Episcopal Church (ECW), Birmingham
Diocese of Alabama

GRATITUDE

Dear God, my Heavenly Father,

I am filled with gratitude to awaken in your beautiful world to a glorious sunrise, to hear the morning sounds of birds singing, to have an abundance of nature surrounding me, and to know that You control the wonders of my world and my day.

Accept my gratitude and gratefulness and grant me the peace that I feel at this moment for the entire day.

In your Son's name, I pray,
Amen.

Mrs. Judy Spree
St. Mark's, Episcopal Church, Boligee
Diocese of Alabama

GRATITUDE EVERYWHERE

Dear Creator God,

I come to you this day (night) with a full heart of gratitude. Make me ever thankful for the small moments of gratitude: a sunny day, rain, cool or warm weather, for waking up this day as your child again; and for big things: waking up aware of your constant love, for a new neighbor, a new job, for time to pray and listen to You. My heart is full and overflows with gratitude. Guide me to share gratitude with someone who may need a boost today. In the Holy Spirit, we pray to you. Guide me (us), good Lord.
Amen.

Sarah Swart
St Luke's Kalamazoo Michigan Parish Coordinator
Diocese of Western Michigan

THANKFULNESS FOR FORGIVENESS AND HOPE

Dear Lord thank you for forgiveness and hope. For knowing into the depths of my soul that I can fully repent, be fully restored, and once again be full of hope. Sometimes a dozen times in a day, a week, or a month, may the breadth of your loving forgiveness surrounds me and lifts me back again back from sinner to saint.

Today I pray I will love tirelessly. As imperfect but ever seeking imitation to love others as you love me. To love others by finding the goodness in their soul's safe in the knowledge that you created each of us. I pray to love with my heart when my head resists. To love the difference and need in all those I find in this journey through life. Those that are different from me but your creation as sure as I am.

I pray that I might risk the rejection of humans sure in the knowledge of your unconditional love.

Lord help me be steadfast in my efforts to listen to you. Help me to pray for your will to be done. Praying that I might know the wisdom of your voice amidst the noisy nature of my human condition. Lord, let your will shine through me as your love enfolds me. Thank you Lord. Amen.

Bob W.
Diocese of Southern Virginia

A PRAYER OF THANKS FOR THE SEASONS OF GOD'S LOVE

Thank you, Lord, for the seasons of your love that fill our days and nights as the years pass and our journey through time brings us closer and closer to you.

Thank you for the way your love blooms in the garden of our longing heart in springtime. We hear the angel of your presence in the song of every bird that fills the silent places that have surrounded us so long. We raise our arms into the warming breeze toward the sun and feel the green buds bursting within us.

Thank you for the summer of your love when we plunge and splash into the Sea of Galilee that waves upon the shore of our prayers even if we are surrounded by streets, sidewalks and buildings. You take our hand, Lord, and the Holy Spirit's wind fills our sails with grace as the wild geese fly overhead and we leave the concrete hardness of the world behind.

Thank you for the way your leaves gently brush our heart and fall around us in the autumn. Your colors breathe a stained-glass forest beneath the blue sky, and when it rains they somehow feel to our soul as if they were filled even more to the brim with the colors of your love.

Thank you for the way snowflakes feel like you're arriving in communion all around us in the winter, giving all of the love that will fit in the sky, enough love to cover the whole wide world. We look back and see our footprints in this deepening love. With a thankful heart we vow to walk on, beyond the reach of any calendar, until every one of our footprints end and there is only you holding us in your arms forever.

Ken Woodley
St. Anne's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Southern Virginia

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Mother God, who birthed the universe and us in it
Bless all who fill the role of mother.

We thank you for those who have given birth to us
physically or spiritually or emotionally.

We thank you for the mothers who have reared us,
shaped us, nurtured us, held us close and let us go.

We pray for mothers whom we mourn.
because of death or brokenness or alienation.

We pray for mothers and would be mothers
who mourn the loss of children or the inability
to bear children, and the hard choices they have
had to make.

We ask for your healing in our imperfect lives.
Be with us this day, loving God who entered our
human life through a mother, and bless all who strive to
embrace your way of life.

Rev. Barbara Ballenger
St. Peters Episcopal Church, Glenside
Diocese of Pennsylvania

A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Father God, who provides for us with wisdom and grace,
bless all who fill the role of father.

We thank you for all those who have parented us
physically, spiritually, or emotionally.

Thank you for the fathers who have reared us,
nurtured us, guided, held us close and let us go.

We pray for the fathers whom we mourn because of
death, brokenness or alienation.

We pray for fathers and would-be fathers who grieve the loss
of children or the inability to have children.

Be with us this day, loving God, Father to your son,
Jesus Christ, and through your Holy Spirit bless all who
strive to embrace your way of love.

Rev. Barbara Ballenger
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Glenside
Diocese of Pennsylvania

THANKFULNESS FOR FAMILY

Dear God,

Thank you for family; the one that you placed me with at my birth, and the one that you have given me as an adult. Thank you for my biological children as well as the “adopted” ones outside my family who call me “Mom.” Thank you for healthy, beautiful, talented, intelligent, creative, and productive grandchildren. May I be instrumental in teaching, leading, and guiding each of them to lead a life that reflects your presence and love to them as they grow into adults. Please surround them and their parents with your divine love and protection.
Amen.

**Mrs. Judy Spree
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Boligee
Diocese of Alabama**

EDUCATORS

My Heavenly Father, thank you for all of our teachers and all people involved in the education of America's children. Thank you for their expertise, dedication, and love of teaching our most valuable resources - our children. Please lead the teachers, administrators, coaches, and support personnel to accomplish their goals to help the children to learn, develop, and reach their full potential in life. Let all involved in education work harmoniously to provide a safe learning environment for all children in their care. In Your Son's name, I pray,
Amen.

Mrs. Judy Spree
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Boligee
Diocese of Alabama

FORGIVENESS

Dear God,

Please forgive me this day for having the best intentions to do good things, but for leaving them undone. Help me to plan my day in a productive way and to focus on what is truly important to myself and others, and not waste my time, energy, and resources on trivial and unimportant things. Let me be ever mindful of using the resources that You have so graciously given me wisely, wasting nothing, but using them for your best interest. Help me to share Your many blessings to me with everyone that I meet and to never pass up an opportunity to help those in need. Thank you for a bountiful and blessed life.
Amen.

**Mrs. Judy Spree
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Boligee
Diocese of Alabama**



GUIDANCE

Heavenly Father, who sent your son to walk among us give us grace and patience to teach and preach and heal, to love each other and listen for your presence and your will in our lives. In Jesus name, Amen!

**Shirley
Austin, Texas**

I ask your prayers for more love and less love of power.
Amen.

Anonymous

FIRE OF HOPE, COMPASSION, AND LOVE

Dear Gracious and Loving Creator God,
I offer my heart and my soul to Your use in this place
where I reside on Mother Earth. I have trust in my Creator
to do what is best for the united community of God.

Julian of Norwich taught us that “Our life is grounded in
faith, with hope and love!”

From the wisdom of Philo I also learned that “Faith is a
gift from God to sow noble qualities in my soul.” I pray
now that those noble qualities guide me forward day by
day in a path, which allows my soul, and the souls of all of
God’s people, to work for the Kingdom of God on Earth.
It is my faith in you, sustaining God, that moves me
forward to faithfully work for the building of the Beloved
Community of God, where ever they are on your planet
moving through the mystery of the larger universe.

Keep me safe and sustained in hope for the future years ahead. Do not allow my time of doubt or discouragement allow me to “give up on others who share or shape my life”. I place my trust in you to guide me in the decision I make each day.

And above all else help me to remember to trust in Your Great Commandment to love one another as I have loved You. For it is love that can move mountains and it is love, which can sustain my faith on the mountain tops and in the valleys of life. May I walk the road to the full realization that Gandhi was correct with his words of wisdom to his followers. His words inspire me this day and it is these words that can be my daily prayer. “We may not be God, but we are of God, even as a little drop of water is of the ocean.” May these words help me build a “fire of hope, compassion, and love” in my heart and in my soul. Amen.

Elaine Clyborne Barber
Episcopal Church of the Advent, Farmington
Diocese of Minnesota

TAKING CARE OF PHYSICAL AND MORAL DISABILITIES

Almighty God,

Whose mercy surpasses human understanding from generation to generation, give us heavenly understanding of the people living with physical and moral disabilities, and help us to take care of them, that the church may really be and remains the body of Christ; now and forever, Amen.

**Pascal Bigirimana
Bujumbura Christian University
Burundi**

LOVE OF CHRIST

Dear Heavenly Father,

May the blessings of God grace us with His wisdom to truly know God the Father through His Son Jesus. May we become one with Christ in our walk each day. May we know we are children of God - His beloved - forever in our souls - deeper every day. May the Holy Spirit sweetly call our names to follow Christ and in the purpose that God has given us to carry on and witness to His love for us on the cross. May we be so blessed with Christ and His love, that His light shines ever so brightly through us that others will follow Him.

In Jesus Christ's Holy Name, we pray, Amen.

Deacon Lydia Bush
St. Luke's Episcopal Church Women, Live Oak
Diocese of Florida

GUIDE US, LORD

As we meet and greet each other, help us to understand the importance of community. You illustrated community to us by your relationship with your Disciples. They were closer than brothers and you nurtured them and taught them how to build community. They went out in two's to spread the gospel and to teach, heal, and share their faith with others.

Lord, lead and guide us so we do not turn away from your ways.

Help us to share with others and to nurture each other. Let us be filled with your spirit and be available to reach out to your people whoever and wherever they may be.

Lord, lead and guide us so we do not turn away from your ways.

Amen.

**Dr. Marcie Cherau
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Central Florida**

A CONFESSION

Creator, I know I am not perfect. I can't imagine what perfect is.

Help me be aware of my failings and find countervailing virtues.

When I am impatient, help me to draw breath.

When I find faults in others, help me see beyond them and dig deeper.

When I smile, even inwardly, at others' misfortune, let me feel shame.

Help me, when I feel important, to rejoice in others' accomplishments.

Help me, when I feel inadequate, to rejoice in others' gifts.

When I hesitate to do good, push me.

**Eve Cabaniss Webster
Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst
Diocese of Western Massachusetts**

Dear God, help us to remember when we've done something wrong that you will always forgive us. When we see someone sad, help us to remember to cheer them up. Help us to remember to think of everyone as a good person. Amen.

Adayah H. Age 8
Grace Episcopal Day School and Church of the Epiphany
Diocese of Washington

GUIDE OUR STEPS WITH LOVE

Dear Loving God, May you bless the ground that we walk on and guide our steps today. We are living in uncertain times. Only you know the way we should go and what we are to do. If I am to help someone today help me to do so. Show us the way. Keep our thoughts and actions pure and full of love for each other and for you. As it is stated in Psalm 121:2 “My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth”. I ask for Love for all in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Ms. Janella Hall
Episcopal Church Women,
United Thank Offering Coordinator-
Diocese of Southeast Florida**

Dear Creator, guardian of our world and protector of us all, we ask for guidance to address all the hate in the world for anyone oppressed in any way. Bring us to know that you are love and love is for anyone and everyone! Rejoice and love. Amen, Amen.

**Deacon Salli Hartman
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Colonial Beach
Diocese of Virginia**

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

Faith, hope and love,
Just three.
But without any one of them,
Where would we be?

For it's with Faith we take the 1st step
Beyond what we know.

And with Hope, we can keep on moving
As further and further we go.

And Love, the welding power
When we really let it flow.

Faith, hope and love.
These three
Together create the pathways
For all that we can be.

**Ms. Phyllis Hockley
Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Oregon**

ASK

We pray for guidance while turning away,
We pray for patience after getting angry,
We pray for help while not accepting any,
We pray for hope although we have no faith,
We pray for forgiveness without forgiving others,
We pray for love without loving our neighbors,
We ask these things in your name, asking that you see the
needs inside of our hearts while we dwell on the lonesome
road of our life. Help us, Lord Jesus, in all things.

Sherri Killam-Albee
Immanuel Episcopal Church, Bay Minette, Alabama
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

HELP

Lord God, please keep those closest to me happy, healthy, and safe. Also, thank you for the many blessings of this life, and please help me recognize each of my blessings so I continue to be grateful. Lastly, I ask you to continually help me strive to be a better Christian each and every day. Amen.

Mrs. Anne Kimball Spree
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Eutaw
Diocese of Alabama

Affirming and accepting God, who befriended and loved the vulnerable and outcasts. Give us the strength and courage to be outspoken and show radical acceptance to all people that we may love [like or as] you love. In the name of the loving God, liberating Son, and life-giving spirit. Amen.

Marlys Kiser
Diocese of Western North Carolina

Gracious God, source of all mercy, we thank you for your unchanging presence in our lives and in the world. You are always there, even when we have strayed and lost our way. We ask for strength in our weakness, comfort in our grief, peace amidst chaos, and wisdom in times of trial. We ask all of this in the name of the one Triune God. Amen.

Joyce Landers
St. Marks' Episcopal Church Troy, Alabama
Diocese of Central Gulf Coast

Beloved Father, who graced your children with language and speech, let us use these gifts to communicate, understand, and spread your kingdom. Give us the hearts and words to provide our fellow children with an opening that they may want a deeper relationship with you. We ask this in the name of your son Jesus, the greatest example of speaking truth and love. Amen.

Ellen Lincourt
St. Michael's-on-the-Heights Episcopal Church
Diocese of Western Massachusetts

DISCIPLESHIP

Almighty God, you have called us to be your disciples and have entrusted us with the responsibility of spreading your Gospel to all the world. We give you thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who guides us and leads us to all truth. We pray now that we may be open to receive his gifts of wisdom, courage, and strength, and that we may answer the call of discipleship, and go forth bravely into the world. May we exercise our vocation not only with our words, but by setting an example of a Christlike life. This we pray in the name of your son Jesus Christ, who came to dwell among us that we might learn to dwell with him.
Amen.

**The Rev. Richard Losch
Retired Priest
Diocese of Alabama**

LORD GOD

O Lord Jesus, my Captain and my King,
Help my mind to think of you;
Help my eyes to see for you;
Help my lips to speak of you;
Help my hands to work for you;
Help my heart to love you,
All through the day. Amen.

Bokang Maffa
Diocese of Pretoria
Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Dear God, Holy Spirit, who remains my daily guiding light.
Please bring love and peace to the world so that eyes may
be opened to positive change. We praise you, Lord God
and give thanks for your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mathy Milling Downing
St. John's Episcopal Church, Olney
Diocese of Washington

A PRAYER FOR BUILDING THE KINGDOM

Creator, you are blessed, for you lift up the poor, fill the hungry, comfort the grieving and heal the persecuted. Remind us that this world is temporary, and your city is forever, in all its glory and peace, so that we may begin building with you the kingdom to come. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Rev. Cara Ellen Modisett
Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia**

UNTIL WE SEE YOU

God of glory, speak to us from the mountaintops, from the rivers, in thunder and in the sunrise. Guide our steps, strengthen our work in this world until we see you face to face. In the name of your son, who sends his disciples into the world to transform it, Amen.

**Rev. Cara Ellen Modisett
Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton,
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia**

GRATITUDE

Eternal, Most-Holy and Living God, I ask that you plant a garden of gratitude in my heart. Give me eyes to see the good and beauty which are all around me. Help me to choose always to give thanks for every breath I take, for each new day, for a gentle breeze and even for a great challenge. Plant seeds of wonder, worship and a longing for prayer within me. Help me to see my life for what it truly is - a priceless gift from You. Thank you, most of all, for the gift of Your Son, whose life was poured out for us all. Amen.

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead-Carroll
Dean of St. John's Cathedral
Diocese of Florida

RELYING ON THE ALMIGHTY

God of Abraham, we praise and adore you for your greatness throughout the world!

Merciful God, we humbly ask forgiveness for our sins.

We thank you for all blessings that you have given to us consistently.

Father, the challenges of today rest heavily on our hearts but we know that nothing is too challenging for you.

Help us to be conscious of the fact that you are ever present with us. All we need to do is ask for your intervention, be patient for your answers according to your will. Therefore, it is with confidence that we face today, tomorrow, and forever boldly.

Father, we look to you!

Amen.

**Clare Mowatt-Nelson
Holy Apostles and The Mediator
Diocese of Pennsylvania**

Dear Father in Heaven, my heart is heavy with the weight of earthly problems. Please help me to let go and let you handle them for me. I will still do my part, but I truly need Your help and guidance. Help me still my mind in order to hear You today and every day. I pray in the name of our savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Mrs. Maggie Noland
United Thank Offering Board
Diocese of Alabama**

TRIALS

Merciful God, You Have told us that this earthly life will not be easy, but You have also promised that we will live with You for eternity if we give our lives to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I thank You for carrying me through the numerous trials of this life and for the lessons they have and continue to teach me. Help me to use these obstacles to reach out to others who are facing their own trials in order to give them comfort. Help me to reach out to You daily and to listen for your whispers of assurance and guidance. My heart belongs to You, my Father. Amen.

**Mrs. Maggie Noland
United Thank Offering Board
Diocese of Alabama**

GOD'S GUIDANCE: INSPIRED BY PSALM 23

Lord, You are my shepherd, I have everything I need,
You give me peace and guide me to do right, Even when
bad things happen, I will not be afraid because you are
there beside me. Thank you for all you give me.

Lord, open my eyes to the truth of Your Word.

Give me wisdom to understand that I will only get to
greener pastures and still waters if I totally submit to your
guidance, cause me to live in the world with my heart and
mind firmly anchored in heaven, this I pray in Jesus name,
Amen.

Bishop Nereya Rose Okeno
Diocese of Butere
Anglican Church of Kenya

SET THEM FREE

Compassionate God,
Whose love and compassion set the people of Israel free
from slavery
Give us wisdom and courage to listen and fight for the
rights of those who suffer the consequences of modern
slavery
that we may all live free on earth as it will be in your
heavenly kingdom
through Jesus Christ your son our redeemer

**Fr. Carlos Respeito, Assistant Priest
St. Matthews Church in Chifungue
Diocese of Lebombo, Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola**

THANK YOU

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for always being there for me when my heart is heavy, and I have the weight of problems facing me. It gives me great comfort that I can come to you during these times. Guide me during my talks with you to be quieter so that I can hear you. Your counsel during the past years has given me grounding during troubling times. I pray this prayer of gratitude in the name of our steadfast and eternal God. Amen.

Mrs. Toni Robertson
St Michael's Episcopal Church, Fayette
Diocese of Alabama

IS WHOLENESS POSSIBLE?

Is wholeness perfection? Probably not.

What did God intend?

Is wholeness contentment with where I am and who I am?

And who I am in the process of life?

Can I accept the things that shaped me?

How do regrets fit in?

Regrets verses wonderings...

Some BIG whys... Many lessons learned.

Am I whole now?

As whole as I am supposed to be...

So much mystery... Not perfection. Perfectly human.

If there is love and belonging then that may be enough
wholeness. God smiles.

Imperfect humans walking with other imperfect humans
creating a picture of wholeness.

Amen.

Maureen Schaeffer
St. Peter's Episcopal Church Glenside
Diocese of Pennsylvania

PROTECTION

Dear God of all, protect, bless, heal, and save us. Keep us from harm. Send the Spirit so we may discern your will and bless our right actions and words. Protect our loved ones and all the vulnerable ones - the poor, the outcast, the sick, the lonely, those in pain from prejudice, war, tyranny, violence, and natural disasters. Send your love to us always and may we always love you. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

**The Rev. John Stewart, Deacon
Trinity Episcopal Church, Demopolis
Diocese of Alabama**

O Gracious God, who created all people in your image grant that as your children we may find comfort and the knowledge that each of us is beloved as we are, so that we may grow in spirit and live by the light of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever, Amen.

Marti Steiner Unger
Mt. Zion Episcopal Church, Hedgesville
Diocese of West Virginia

RESTORATION

Holy One, I come to You in a place I never thought I would find myself in...a place which buoys my Spirit as it convicts my heart anew. It is the place called restoration. All that had been twisted, severed and seemingly broken has been returned, not piece by piece, but whole in a way which was beyond what I could have asked or hoped for. My heart stretches wide...open to the myriad of miraculous possibilities with You, in You, for You. Guide my intentions as I step, as I speak. Calm my steps. Slow my gate. Weaken my defenses with Your grace as I enter into gentle renewal. What am I now? Blessed, released, loved. Who am I now? Then and now, Yours.
Praise You, my Abba. Amen.

**The Rev. Kaki O'Flinn, Deacon
St. Mary's on the Highlands Episcopal Church, Birmingham
Diocese of Alabama**

GOD, IT IS ME, JOHNNY

Dear God, please give me patience throughout my life.
Give me the strength and the ability to wait on what will
come with time. Amen.

Johnny K., Age 12
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville
Diocese of Missouri

Dear Heavenly Father, source of all goodness and joy.
We thank and praise you for your loving guidance on this
day. We pray for your peace to settle upon us this evening.
Calm our worries, soothe our hurts, and assure us that
you are with us through the dark night hours. Help us to
know that whatever is to come, we face it with you by our
side. All this, we humbly ask in the name of your son, Jesus
Christ. Amen.

Joyce Landers
St. Marks' Episcopal Church, Troy
Alabama
Diocese of Central Gulf Coast

A GRANDMOTHERS PRAYER

Good Morning Father:

You know my fears, my worries and my true feelings even if I hide them. You show me your love and give me courage in spite of it all.

Thank you, for being my strength , my salvation and my peace. I pray that I may become more Christ like in my life in order to help others in need. Father, I ask your protection for my family, especially my granddaughter going through a life experience period and needs heavenly guidance at this time. Help her to understand that a true relationship with you will solve all problems. Help her to get a better understanding of herself and how to treat others on her journey. Help her to know that love is the true medicine for healing. Thank you.

**Ms Laura Orcutt
St James Episcopal Church Education of Ministry
Diocese of Utah**

HEALING

FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP LAST NIGHT

May you find peace in the sleepy space that comes with sighs and drowsiness. May you also find strength in the knowledge that many of us feel the same way today, hours and days blurring together, seeming like an endless struggle. May God grant you the self-awareness and grace to give yourself a break and to create the room for the rest you need in order to keep on keeping on.

Amen.

**Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson
Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
Diocese of New Jersey**

PEACE AND HEALING

Dear God, we ask You to surround us with peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. When we face difficult life trials that are beyond our understanding, help us to find peace. Help us to heal and remove things that are causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives. We ask You to surround us with your constant love, healing, and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Mrs. Judith Keat
Grace Episcopal Church, ECW, Anniston,
Diocese of Alabama

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

O God, lover of all souls, grant us patience and the ability to see your likeness in everyone we encounter. Give us a kind and understanding heart. Help us to show forth your love and bring healing to an unkind and broken world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Joyce Landers
St. Marks' Episcopal Church, Troy, Alabama
Diocese of Central Gulf Coast

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins that we may greet with joy the coming of Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Rev Rowan Larson
Christ Church, Cambridge
Diocese of Massachusetts**

A PRAYER TO HELP ME REMEMBER AND STAY CALM

Dear God,

Please help me when I feel nervous before a test
to remember I am smart.

Please help me when I feel anxious
to remember to breathe.

Please help me when I feel afraid
to remember I am loved.

Help all of us to remember we are smart, brave, and loved
when we feel nervous, anxious, or afraid.

Amen.

Carrie Melton
Age 9

HEALING PRAYER FOR ST. AUGUSTINE'S

Heavenly Father,

You know about the flooding that took place at St. Augustine's. You know how the damage weighs heavy on our hearts.

We thank you for being with us and protecting us so that no one was hurt.

St. Augustine's is so special to us for so many reasons:

We thank you for this place

where we worship and praise you

where babies are baptized into your kingdom

where the souls of the dearly departed are

commended to heaven

where we hear your words in the gospel readings

where we sing praises to your name

where we kneel in prayer to you

where we gather to join in Holy Communion

Lord, help us to keep in mind it is You not the vestments, the books, the altar linens, that makes St. Augustine's so special to us all.

You are our King and the things that were damaged are just things.

You are still praised and worshiped in our hearts and at St. Augustine's.

You are still and always there and with each of us every day.

Your love is real, eternal and everlasting.

We thank you in Jesus Name, Amen.

**Rev. Rebecca Smith, Deacon
St. Augustine of Canterbury, Elkhorn
Diocese of Nebraska**

A PRAYER TO REMEMBER THE INNOCENTS

We will always remember them.

Ohiḡni wičauḡkiksuyapi kte

Dear Lord, Almighty God,

We pray for all indigenous children who were in residential and boarding schools in Canada and the United States.

Some died there; we ask that you give assurance to their descendants that their souls are with you and their ancestors. Some survived there; we ask that you give your healing grace to all who endured hardship while there and are still struggling with those memories.

Lastly, we ask you to help us guard our children against harm in this world.

All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**Woniya Wakan (Holy Spirit), Santee-Yankton Mission, Wagner, SD,
Rev. James D. Marrs, Jr, Pat Goulette, LaHoma Johnson, Nadine
Selwyn, Janice Provost, Deanna Stands.**

*(Adopted at 150th Niobrara Convocation, June 2022 and at
138th Diocesan Convention, September 2022)*

COLLECT FOR HEALING

Almighty God of hope and healing, who with and through the Son and the Holy Spirit subsist as our ultimate physician- we humbly supplicate Thee to mercifully heal our mind, soul, and body [and particularly that of N.], that we may be graciously relieved of all suffering by virtue of Christ's own suffering and resurrection. [In communion and community of all Thy Holy Saints, Angels, and Archangels], we entreat Thee O Lord to abundantly abide among all our ailments in all dimensions, so to be sewn in Thy Spirit as we sow our seed in Thy soil.

Br. Christian Ventura, OP
Grace and St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Maryland

FOR UNITY

Almighty and merciful God, bless your church and heal the divisions that threaten it. Give us the grace to lovingly bear with our sisters and brothers in Christ when their beliefs differ from our beliefs. Empower us by your Holy Spirit that we might make every effort to preserve the unity that has the Spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force. For there is but one Body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father who is over all and is in all. Amen.

**Nancy Young
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fort Collins
Diocese of Colorado**

LOVE OF GOD AND CREATION

God give me the grace to be open to what you have for me. Allow me to progress on my journey of faith. In your holy name, through your son, Jesus Christ and with the life giving spirit. Amen.

Anonymous
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Dear God, I hope for world peace and a clean planet.
Amen.

Hendrick
St. James and St. Andrew
Diocese of Western Massachusetts

BREATH OF GOD

At the beginning of time
God breathed a great breath
All that is was contained
in that breath
And exploded
into existence.

The Spirit of God continues
To breathe life
Into being.

We breathe in that
Breath of God.

And we breathe out words:
Words of comfort
To the brokenhearted,
Words of peace
To the troubled,
Words of hope
To those in need,

Words of justice
To the suffering,
Words of joy
To the grieving,
Words of freedom
To the oppressed
Words of light
To those in darkness.

The Spirit of God breathes
One long eternal breath.
We know that breath.
Its name is Love.
We join the dance of that Divine breath
And sing -
Words of praise,
thanksgiving,
And everlasting Joy!

**Rev. Stephanie Batterman
Grace Episcopal Church, Bath
Diocese of Maine**

OCEANIC THANKS

Almighty God, we thank you so much for the oceans globally, teeming with life but coping with pollution. For the healing powers of being beside the seas, for those who work on the high seas and supply our daily needs, for seafarers abandoned by their employers and far from their families. May our thanks and concern overflow into a respect for the power of the oceans, wherever we are today. We say thank you in the name of the creating Father, redeeming Son and sanctifying Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Peter Long
Poldhu Cove, St. Peter on the Cliffs,
The Diocese of Truro, Church of England

FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR PETS AND ALL WILDLIFE

God, through your grace, we are blessed.

We ask in your goodness that you shine your light and shroud in grace all animals and their caretakers.

We pray for all wildlife, pets, and their families.

We ask that you guide the Veterinarians, the Rescuers, and the Protectors, all who have our eternal gratitude for their care and kindness.

Please watch over those animals that have no home, that are hungry or hurt and guide a protector to them, so they may receive the care and treatment they deserve.

May our world be sustainable so all animals in the wild can have nourishment and cover.

Lord, we ask this in your name. Amen.

**Patty & Riley Martin
Church of the Holy Spirit, Tuckerton
Diocese of New Jersey**

THANKSGIVING FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Dear God, thank you for the amazing things protected by the National Parks.

Thank you for creating:

- beautiful caves like Carlsbad Caverns
- fossilization, so we can see dinosaur bones at Dinosaur National Park
- Hoodoos in Bryce Canyon
- and the Grand Canyon.

Thank you for making nature so interesting, fun, beautiful, and rawr-some. Help us to take care of nature so everyone can enjoy it.

Amen.

Carrie Melton
Age 9

IN THANKSGIVING FOR SPACE EXPLORATION AND SALLY RIDE

Dear God, thank you for creating outer space. Thank you for the brave people willing to be astronauts, like Sally Ride, who showed the world girls can do anything. Please help all of us to be curious like Sally and help everyone to be brave like her.

Amen.

Lucy Melton
Age 9

Gracious God who blesses us with gifts beyond measure,
guide us that we may grow in love for one another so that
we may advance the promise of the Kingdom in your Holy
name. Amen.

Anonymous

Gracias Great Spirit for all that you give us always in all ways. We must affirm your gift by prioritizing the care of creation and well being of nature and peoples. Amen.

**Rev Marta B.
Diocese of El Salvador
Province of Central America (Iarca)**

O Loving Creator, you have always been, and before you nothing has been. The stars of the heavens, the grasses of the earth, the depths of the seas, sing out to you. Fill us with your light that we may have the strength to understand and eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft earth as relatives to your creation. Guide us, for without you we are nothing. Amen.

**Rev. Kurt Huber
Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission
Diocese of South Dakota**

(Adapted from a traditional Dakota prayer)

DELIGHT IN WONDER

Holy Eternal One,
You fill us with delight and wonder,
You plant joy and laughter deep with our being,
You sow seeds of hope and peace with every breath.
Help us to dwell in delight, to wait in wonder,
Help us to jump for joy and live in laughter
Help us to rest in hope and be at peace,
For your Love's sake. Amen.

Bishop Deon Johnson
Diocese of Missouri

O God of all creation, who breathed our world into being, help us to choose wisely in our uses of the earth and see other creatures and wild spaces as deserving of tender care and respect that we may leave a better world for the future generations of all living things to the glory and worship of you, Oh Lord, your son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

April Johnston
St James, Waimea (Kamuela), Hawaii Islands
Diocese of Hawaii

O God, creator of all things, we thank you for the gift of creation. Everywhere we go, we can encounter the beauty of the earth. We are grateful for the beauty of the mountains and the oceans. We receive your blessings each time we hear the song of the birds and gaze at the colors of the flowers. Help us to appreciate that all of creation is a gift and give us the wisdom to care for even the smallest of things. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Joyce Landers
St. Marks' Episcopal Church, Troy, Alabama
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Holy God, you rejoice in everything and everyone you have made. Help us to remember that you, in all your glory, are bigger and more wonderful than anything we can imagine. Your divine image holds us all together as one body, your hands and feet in this world. Amen.

**Rev. Rowan Larson
Christ Church, Cambridge
Diocese of Massachusetts**

Good and gracious God, whose faithful loving kindness upholds all creation help us to faithfully love one another as you have loved us so that your kingdom will come and your will be done on earth as it is heaven. Glory, honor and praise to you forever through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Yvonne L.
Episcopal Church Foundation**

THE PRAYERS OF MOUNTAINS

Father God, comforter and redeemer, you founded the earth, you have created mountains and sea and you inspire your creation to sing praises; gather us into that choir of voices in celebration of the hope that has come to the world. In the name of the Jesus Christ, the light shining in the darkness, Amen.

**Rev. Cara Ellen Modisett
Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia**

CREATION

Father, thank you for this, another morning, to sit quietly with your creation surrounding me. The birds sing of your glory. The warm sun rises to give life and hope to all. May we be ever mindful of the beauty and fragility of all life around us. Amen.

Mrs. Linda Munoz
St. James' Episcopal Church, Livingston
Diocese of Alabama

Dear God, the great creator, this earth amazes me!
Everything You have made is designed to fit together perfectly like a giant puzzle with moving parts. Each seemingly insignificant plant and creature serve a purpose in Your creation. Thank You for the beauty and amazement of your world. In Your Son's Holy name,
Amen.

**Mrs. Maggie Noland
United Thank Offering Board
Diocese of Alabama**

MY PRAYER OF UNDERSTANDING

To understand is to stand under.

To stand under is to look up.

To look up is to see God.

To see God is to understand.

**Ms. Laura Orcutt
St James Episcopal Church
Diocese of Utah**

MY PRAYER OF LOVE: WHAT LOVE IS

Love is an action,
not just a noun, but a verb
that springs into action,
without saying a word.

**Ms. Laura Orcutt
St James Episcopal Church
Diocese of Utah**

GOD OF ALL CREATION

Creator God, thank you for the beauty of your creation. We watch a mother doe and her fawn walk slowly across our meadow. Two robins build a nest; the baby birds open wide their mouths for food that is provided. A painted turtle digs with her hind legs a hole where she drops her eggs. The black bear watches as her cubs climb a tree. Thank you God for letting us observe the wonders of the world around us. Inspire us to respect and honor all whom you have created. May we see the beauty and worth in everyone. Help us to care for them tenderly, like a mother cares for her children. Thank you, that you love us; your own creation. Amen.

**Jeannie & Phil Palin
Grace Episcopal Church, Stanardsville
Diocese of Virginia**

CREATION

Holy God,

For the beauty of the earth and all your people, we give you thanks and praise. For the times we have abused your creation, we ask for your pardon. Help us to look to you for guidance in caring for all the blessings of this life.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Mrs. Madeleine Pearce
St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Diocese of Alabama

Creator God, you bring forth seed for sowing and bread for eating, make us ever grateful for your good gifts and help us to feed your sheep. For you live abundantly, in trinity of persons, one God. Amen.

Rev Jimmy Pickett
Grace Church
Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Creator God, who formed this world out of love, bestow upon your people the will to fight for creation's flourishing, that we may more fully experience your intentions for this world. Let us join with the mountains and leap with joy at your name - the holy one who creates, restores, and sanctifies. Amen.

Kirstin Swanson
Richmond Interparish Council
Diocese of New York

PRAYER FOR JUST PREPARATION

Lord God, Almighty

Look upon (me) your creation with favor!

Open wide my soul, eyes and ears

To see, hear, and countenance your design (for my life).

Jesus, Blessed Savior

Incline my heart to feel and act with your manifest love!

To diligently work in accordance with your design and example.

Holy Spirit, Paraclete

Tender a gift of wisdom to discern (what I must do) and fortitude to follow the way.

In the name of

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Amen.

Anonymous
Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Mississippi

Dear God, please keep all the animals in the world safe, happy, fed, and able to get to water. Keep them safe during droughts and heavy storms, and especially during wildfires. And thank you for our pets. Thank you for this beautiful world where we can enjoy all the animals that you have created. Amen.

Adayah H.
Age 8
The Church of the Epiphany DC
Diocese of Washington

LOVE

Dear God, I pray that we may all magnify and focus on love, the only thing that is unlimited. Amen.

Nancy Lazarevich
Communicant, St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Diocese of Alabama

PRAYER FOR RAIN

Lord of all creation, we pray for rain.

Pour Heaven's waters wild, unleashed, unchanneled,
rushing across hard-dried lands and our withered spirits.
Send rain that fills and floods, forcing us to shelter, to
stumble and slip along sodden paths into rivers of living
waters, baptizing all the world anew. Let your storms
pound like a drumming prayer, drowning dust and soaking
our cities until the earth cries out have mercy,

Lord of all creation, we pray for rain.

**Marilyn Hanchett
Christ Episcopal Church, Rolla
Diocese of Missouri**

Gracious and loving God, to be in nature—at the beach, in the woods, on the prairie, by the pond, on the porch, among the trees, with the birds—is to be with You.

For those precious moments, help us release our cares and concerns so that we can simply enjoy being in your presence and taking in the full glory of your creation. How beautifully magnificent is this Earth. Praise be to you for it all, for you so lovingly created it for love of us. And yet... and yet...and yet. So often we fail to honor your precious gift; we fail to be good stewards of it and worse, we abuse, destroy, and disregard this Earth. Have mercy on us and forgive us Good Lord. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, inspire us with what you would have us do to repair it. Enlighten us as to how to restore it. Empower us with the courage to act upon it for we are willing, Lord. May we, in grateful response for all you have given us, work with our siblings and for our siblings to preserve, conserve, and care for your blessed creation.

In Your most precious name we pray. Amen.

Jennifer Mariano
Diocese of Maryland

WATER

Holy One, we thank you for creating water.

You created the world, separating the firmament and the waters, we thank you.

You created water to fill the vast oceans, lakes and mountain streams, we thank you.

You created water for your Holy uses: walking on the Sea of Galilee, turning water into wine, baptism in the Jordan, and washing feet, we thank you.

You created water as raindrops to feed plants, trees, crops and all growing things, we thank you.

You created sweat, that we may work hard for you, we thank you.

You created water to wash our bodies and quench our thirst, we thank you.

And you created tears so that when we weep, you weep with us, we thank you.

Amen.

**Deacon Rebecca Smith
St. Augustine of Canterbury, Elkhorn
Diocese of Nebraska**

Our Father, Our Friend,
Thank you for accepting us as companions.
We think about the small microbe, then are humbled at the
solar system.
We wonder that you made it all.
We are awed that you made us as friends with it.
If there is any blessing or gift that is held in store for us,
please open our hearts to welcome it.
Please open our souls to receive more of your kindness.
We ask you to fashion us to become the people that you
vision us to be.
Father, guide and direct our families. Please pour your
Holy Spirit on them and their futures.
Thank you friend.

**Dora Chaney Pelham
St. John's Episcopal Church, Monroeville
Diocese of Alabama**

Creator God, you made the world in all its diversity out of love. Help us to see your loving hand at work in the world around us. Remind us to laugh with glee as the whale leaps from the ocean, gape in wonder as the caterpillar emerges as a Monarch, and shed tears of joy at the riotous beauty of the prairie. Renew our commitment to creation, teach us to lament the wrong we have done, and help us to be better stewards of your creation; so that we may all live in peace with the wonders that you have made. Amen.

**The Rev. Jennifer Allen
2022 UTO Grant Recipient
Diocese of Kansas**

SORROW OR FEAR

PRAYER FOR OUR SOULS

Lord, root out from the secret places in our hearts all the prejudices, wrong opinions, evil thoughts, ignorance, intolerance, and negative judgments that we hide from you, from other people, and even from ourselves.

We understand that is from those hidden places that hate and division are born. If not purged, they will infect the world around us, destroying our society and any hope we have of cooperating with you to bring about your Kingdom in the world.

Lord, we, your unworthy servants, plead with you. Change our hearts! Amen.

**The Rev. Stephanie Batterman
Grace Episcopal Church, Bath
Diocese of Maine**

INTO THE GARDEN

Oh Lord, my friend
and my God,
Take me with you
into that
Garden of Sorrow,
that Gethsemane.

But only for a moment,
for surely my heart
would break
to see your sorrow
there.

**The Rev. Stephanie Batterman
Grace Episcopal Church, Bath, Maine
Diocese of Maine**

SUFFERING

God of love, God of mercy, You said that you would be with us to the end. Be with all of us who are suffering and in need of your love and compassion. Amen.

Annie Kate Jacobs
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Wilmington
Diocese of East Carolina

LAMENTATION

God who creates and loves us all.

You are a God who promises to be with us in times of crisis.

We lament that there is no adequate housing and that more people with the ability to intervene don't recognize the problem, blind to it, for a myriad of reasons.

They may not want to get involved. They lack awareness.

They are often in denial of what is going on to truly see the person's need.

We see our greed in corporations and in this world.

The person is not recognized and valued so that they can prosper.

The soul does not prosper.

That life is lost as meaningless. Values are misaligned.

Oh, Lord God.

We want to hear the voices of the silenced and suffering.

Those who are persecuted need to speak and be heard, so their suffering becomes understandable for those who have not walked their walk.

We have sinned against our neighbors for things seen and unseen, for those done and left undone.

We confess you are a powerful and loving God who knows each of us and can give mercy and restoration where needed, often when we see naught.

God is seen in every person.

We confess when we turn away, we are seeing God in everyone.

Oh Lord God, our only hope is You.

Work in our hearts.

We trust in You.

We know You will provide us with the means to help others.

Almighty God hear our prayer.

Amen.

**Mindy Mitchell and Gidge Sundquist, students
Laura Orcutt, mentor
Education for Ministry (EfM)
18-May-23
Diocese of Utah**

OTHER

A MORNING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of another day Life.
Thank you for your Prophets, Manifestations and Saints.
Bless them in Your realm, and help us to understand some
of truth through their words and their actions.

Thank you for the beauty, the wonder, the majesty, and
the bounty of this planet, this universe, and all the good
therein.

Forgive us, Lord, for what we do to your creation - we are
sinners in your sight.

In Your mercy, Lord, help us to heal ourselves and this
planet.

May all beings who suffer find relief from suffering.

May here be an end to hatred, injustice, violence, ill
treatment, war, prejudice, hatred, terrorism, abuse, and
slavery between all peoples and all nations.

Forgive us, Lord, what we do to Your Word, each other,
and ourselves.

Help us to find our True Selves and to love
unconditionally.

May love and peace and justice and compassion reign.

We ask this ll through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen.

Roderick Mack II
Christ Episcopal Church
Diocese of Maine

A COLLECT

Loving, Patient, and Eternal Father, in your overflowing compassion lead us as we face a world burdened with division. Give us hope that we may find unity and harmony as we engage in the work you have commanded us to undertake. Forever enlighten us in ways to love all your children just as the Good Shepherd loves us. Help us to understand that when we safeguard and shelter your creation, we are loving all that you cherish. In the name of your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Fran Daniel Bramlette
Church of the Holy Cross, Trussville
ECW Diocesan President
Diocese of Alabama**

GIVE US LESS, O LORD

Give us less O Lord.

Give us fewer worries, that we may come to you
clear-headed

Give us fewer angry moments that our relationships
will be healed.

Give us less sorrow so that we may have happy hearts.

Give us less doubt so that our faith will remain strong.

Give us fewer obligations so that there is time enough.

Give us less O Lord of earth's mundane things so that
our path to you not waiver but grows more.

Give us less O Lord.

**Sherri Killam-Albee
Immanuel Episcopal Church of Bay Minette, Alabama
Diocese of Central Gulf Coast**

STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(an alternative to the Nicene Creed and Apostles Creeds)

I have faith in God,
Who is the Source of all Being,
Ineffable, transcendent, immanent,
One with all that is, was, and will be.

I have faith God,
Who is Love,
Manifest in Jesus of Nazareth,
Born of Mary and of Joseph,

He modeled for us a life of compassion, especially for the
poor, oppressed, and persecuted,
a life of love and faithfulness,
of forgiveness and reconciliation,
of justice and equality,
of joy, hope, and peace,
He suffered crucifixion under Pontius Pilot, died and was
buried,
His Spirit arises again within us that our lives may be
transformed.

I have faith in God,
Who is Life,
As the Holy Spirit, present within us, among us, and
beyond,
Known through the Prophets and Sacred Texts, and
Experienced through our relationships with others,
in the natural world, and
in all that is Sacred.

I affirm,
Baptism as a symbol of acceptance and transformation,
Eucharist as a celebration of and thanksgiving for oneness
with God and with all of
Creation, and
Communities of the Faithful,

which celebrate the presence of God Incarnate,
share with those in need the blessings of this life, and
live and work together with reverence and gratitude for all
that is now,
and with hope for all that is yet to come.

Larry Rankin
Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst
Diocese of Massachusetts

GRATITUD

Amado Dices Creador, gracias, gracias por todo lo que nos
dad cada día que cam memos para alabanza de la creación.
Amén.

The Rev. Marta Benarides
Diocese of El Salvador

GRACIAS A DIOS

Gracias a Dios por mis alimentos. Te pido por todos los niños del mundo para que tengan comida en sus mesas. Te pido por todas las personas en los hospitales y en el mundo entero para que les des su alivio y los bendigas. Amén.

Brodie Marie Memba
7 years old
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Pennsylvania

GRACIAS SEÑOR

Señor te doy gracias por este día. Porque me permites ver todas tus maravillas. Gracias por todas tus bendiciones. Te pido que me guíes para ser mejor cada día, para servirte y poder ver tu rostro en cada persona que me encuentre. Amén.

**Rosalinda Memba
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Diocese of Pennsylvania**

NOTES

NOTES

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