MORNING PRAYER
Advent

Opening Acclamation
I arise at dawn with a winged heart
And give thanks for another day of loving. -*Kahlil Gibran*

Hymn of Praise
"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words
- And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is
heard - And sore must be the
storm - That could abash the
little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chillest
land - And on the strangest
Sea - Yet - never - in
Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me. -*Emily Dickinson*

Collect of the Day
O Source of morning's brightness, as new light streams out of the darkness, we open wide our hearts to the healing light of your encircling Presence. Open our eyes to the opportunities this day has to offer. Surprise us with small joys and pieces of beauty scattered through the hours. O beautiful Presence, help us this day to taste the joy of being awake. May this simple prayer come true in our lives. Amen. -*Macrina Widerkehr*

Reading

Meditation

Prayers
Please add your thanksgivings and intercessions to the Facebook stream.

O God, you are the source of Hope. In the waning, darkening days of the year, kindle that spark of hope in us that days will lengthen and the world will turn again toward sprouting and growth. **God of hope, lift our hearts.**

O God, you are the source of Peace. In all our struggles with one another and within ourselves, calm us; create in us the resolve to meet one another undefended, and to create islands of peace in the tumult of this world. **God of peace, lift our hearts.**

O God, you are the source of Joy. Fill us with unquenchable joy, even amid our times of struggle. Hold fast to us and remind us that we are made to reflect your light. **God of joy, lift our hearts.**

O God, you are the source of Love. As we await the celebration of Jesus' birth, conceive in us the gifts you ask us to bear and birth. **God of love, lift our hearts.**

O God, you are the source of healing. Bring to those who suffer the balm of your presence. We pray for health care workers, for counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists, for clergy and shamans, for all who serve as midwives for our healing in body, mind and spirit. **God of healing, lift our hearts.**

O God, you are the source of life. We pray for those awaiting new birth; for those whose lives are limited by addiction; for those approaching the threshold of death; for those who have died. We trust that you are present at every threshold. **God of life, lift our hearts.**

Thank you, God, for this day. May we speak love into the world; may we remember to hope; may we bear your peace wherever we go; and may joy accompany us through every moment. **Amen.**

Benediction
Awake, awake.
Open your eyes
in wonder
at the coming of the day.
Wrap yourself in hope
Against the chill of winter.
Breathe in peace and breathe it out.
Let joy be your watchword.
Watch for love's arrival.
Be blessed, and know that God enfolds you. **Amen.**

2