

## **MORNING PRAYER**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**The Season after Epiphany 2021**

### **Opening Acclamation**

Blessed are you, beloved our God;

**In you is glory and love forever.**

*- Jim Cotter, "Prayer at Day's Dawning"*

### **Hymn of Praise**

*It's a Good Day*

This life

Is but one mighty day.

We've been spinning around the sun

Dipping into darkness and rising

Around and around.

In this one big, beautiful day

Of gathering love

In all its shades

We get to be both children

And elders,

We get to be playful.

We get to be part of beauty,

We become kneaded with meaning,

We get to serve something higher.

This one day is spinning us all

Into lovers of this great light

That the immense brilliance of the sun

Is only hinting at —

It's a good day.

*- Chelan Harkin*

### **Collect of the Day**

As our awareness of your light grows, O God, help us to open our hearts and our lives to your presence; help us to receive insight and wisdom; help us to learn the way of love, so we may be part of the healing of the world. We pray because of Jesus, your light of love. **Amen.**

### **Reading**

### **Meditation**

## **Prayers**

*Please add your prayers to the Facebook comments.*

As the days unfold, and the winter light surrounds us, we turn to you, O God, the source of life:

We pray for ourselves, in this time when everyone's lives are disrupted. Encourage us to hope, to work, to create; and help us to be kind to ourselves when we need to rest.

We pray for our neighbors. For those who are ill, we pray for accurate diagnosis, precise treatment, and compassionate care. For those who have lost work, we pray for access to help, and new opportunities. For those considered essential workers, we pray for their safety.

We pray for our cities. Grant wisdom, insight, and collaborative work for those charged with the many concerns of our local communities, complicated by the pandemic.

We pray for our state, and for our nation. We give great thanks for the leaders who are working tirelessly to bring vaccines to as many people as possible. We pray for those who, in the face of our current challenges, have abdicated their responsibility to the common good.

We pray for our church, and every church struggling to provide worship, care, fellowship, and education in this season. Help us to find balance in the struggle, and joy in your service.

We pray with great tenderness for those who have died. Sustain those who grieve. Grant to the departed your grace; may they find joy in your eternal presence.

All this we pray because of Jesus, our Healer. **Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **Benediction**

Living One,  
May we encounter you this day  
In the laughter of children,  
In the skills of those who create,  
In the pauses of the elderly,  
In the patience of those who teach,  
In the loyalty of friends,  
In the dedication of those who serve,  
In the exuberance of animals,  
In those willing to make fools of themselves.  
May we be your blessing to one another. **Amen**

*- Jim Cotter, ibid*

### **Dismissal**

Let us go forth into this day, shining with the light of love.