MORNING PRAYER
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
LENT 2022

Opening Acclamation
In the name of God, who is love: Amen.
As the sun rises and the new day begins,
We turn to you, O God, for blessing and hope.

Open our lips, O God,
And we will proclaim your praise together.

Glory to God, creating, redeeming, and sustaining:
Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise
Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice — it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances — but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.
+ Mary Oliver

Reading

Meditation
**Prayers**

God dwells in you

*And also in you.*

Let us pray:

In this season of journeys and resting places, accompany us, God of grace, and turn our attention toward what we need to learn. We pray for attentive hearts.

In this season of preparation, teach us, O God, to set aside our accumulated clutter, and carry with us what we truly need. We pray for the will to leave behind what no longer serves us.

In this season of attention, awaken us, O God, to the habits that limit us. Teach us open-handed generosity and hospitality. We pray to see you in every stranger.

In this season of prayer, help us, God of love, to be faithful in seeking your abiding presence. We pray with thanks for your blessings. We pray with deep love for all those who need your healing touch.

In this season of turning toward resurrection, we pray to you, God of eternity, for those who have died. We entrust them to your love, which even death cannot obliterate.

In this season of war, dislocation, and anxiety, we pray to you, God of peace, for troops deployed around the world; for refugees; for leaders who seek solutions; for people everywhere who share in anxious and hopeful prayer.

**Collect:**

We thank you, God, for this very day. Turn our attention to your presence in every moment; make us aware of your love, no matter our circumstances. Strengthen us to live this day by your grace, and for your holy purposes. When we succumb to moments of despair, turn our hearts to you and to one another; for your desire for us is life abundant, and joy in the journey. We pray because of Jesus, who shows us the way. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

May the blessing of light be upon you, light without and light within. May the blessed sunshine shine on you and warm your heart till it glows like a great peat fire, so that the stranger may come and warm himself at it, and also a friend. Amen.

**Dismissal**

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