

Daily Prayer, Monday, December 7, 2020

Acknowledgement:

Before our prayer begins, we acknowledge that we are living in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples with whom we journey in reconciliation.

Opening Prayer:

God who dispels all darkness,
Come to be with us, in each one of our situations;
Come to live among us, live with us and in us;
Come to reconcile us with You and with one another.
God of Light, open our hearts to the mystery of Your love and the invitation of Your grace.
Amen.

Psalm 25

¹ In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.
² I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
⁴ Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.
⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.
⁶ Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.
⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.
⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.
¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep his covenant.

- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the LORD,
for only he will release my feet from the snare.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart
and free me from my anguish.
- ²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me;
do not let me be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, LORD,^[c] is in you.

Scripture Reading

Luke 5:17-26

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

We bring to mind those places in the world where families and countries are torn apart by conflict, violence or war, and ask for the Light of Peace to break through the darkness.

We remember all those places in the world where people have been forced from their homes and are separated from their families and ask for the Light of Hope to break through.

We remember all those places in the world where people are suffering from disease or illness, and ask for the Light of Healing to break through.

We remember all those places in the world where people are held captive by poverty, hunger, slavery, prejudice, and isolation and ask for the Light of Freedom and Abundant Life to break through.

We remember all those places in the world where the Earth and her creatures have not been lovingly cared for and respected and ask for the Light of Love and Holiness to break through.

May our prayers encircle the world and offer light in places of darkness. Enkindle hope in our darkened world and announce the dawn of your kingdom once again.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen

Celtic Canticle

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.

Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.

Closing Prayer (by Rev. Jerry Chism)

Oh Immanuel, God with us, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in the blur and mystery of our lives.

In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle, as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence and care for us.

We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us. Let something wonderful begin in us — something surprising and holy.

May your hand be upon us. Let your light shine around us and within us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us. Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Immanuel with us once again. Amen.