

# Prayers

Rev. Kate Wilkinson

## 1. Easter Prayer

Spirit of Life, be with us this morning with all that we carry...joys and sorrows, hopes and doubts, accomplishments and failures. Be with us as we open our hearts to the joy of Easter and to the hope that this season brings.

Spirit of New Life, help us to welcome the blooming of Spring into our lives. Help us to welcome new beginnings, risks, and the unknown.

Spirit of Compassion, help us to be gentle with each other and with ourselves. Help us to forgive and to love more deeply.

Spirit of Memory, be with us as we hold dearly thoughts of those who are no longer with us. Help us to heal from our many losses and to balance remembering with letting go.

Spirit of Resurrection, be with us as we roll back the stones of fear, hatred, and indifference to welcome a world of peace. Help us to work for tolerance, justice, and solidarity.

Spirit of Community, be with us this Easter morning as we worship together in honor of stories of rebirth and in celebration of renewed life.

## 2. Green Sanctuary Prayer

I invite you to breathe deeply as we join  
now in the spirit of prayer

May we quiet ourselves now, as the  
earth quiets herself at night.

May we be in touch with our internal  
rhythms as the tides follow the moon.

May we let go of our losses as the  
autumn trees do their leaves.

May we use times of darkness to grow  
as bulbs do underground.

And as nature models to us each day,  
May we always, always, turn towards the light.

Amen

### 3. Prayer for Complexity

Let us quiet ourselves for a moment of prayer...

Though the world is not at peace today, let us pray for acts of peace.

Though we support the bravery of our troops, let us pray for homecomings.

Though we cannot depend on certainty, let us pray for moments of clarity and purpose.

Though we do not understand each other fully, let us pray for patience and open hearts.

Though we feel acutely the pain of our broken places, let us pray for healing.

And though it sometimes stretches us beyond what we once thought we could hold,  
let us pray for the vessel of community.

## 4. Prayers of the People

In this time of prayer may we bring into our circle of concern all those who, through our prayerful intentions, may be held by the inexplicable web of connection that links us together. May our love and prayers not be limited to ourselves or those near us, but extend to all our neighbors, both those we know and those we never will.

We lift up in our hearts and prayers members of this community, our loved ones and families. May our hearts be gladdened by the joys of this sacred community and may we have the strength and compassion to hold the sorrows as well.

We lift up in our hearts and prayers all those who are going without today. Without food or shelter, without security or love. May those who are without not be without hope.

We lift up in our hearts and prayers all those who are affected by war. All those who suffer from acts of violence, and who are afraid. We pray that justice and healing makes its way into these lives.

May our prayers not be limited to words but express themselves in action. And may we continue to feel the tug of the web as we realize and hold tight our connections to one another.

### 3. Winter Prayer

Let us huddle together this morning,  
our community a place of warmth in our lives  
as we share the flame of hope and connection.

Let us allow the frost of isolation and bitterness to melt away  
as we open ourselves to a sense of peace and spirit.

We extend our thoughts to all those who are cold this morning,  
lacking shelter or love to keep them warm.

Let us wrap our prayers around them and each other like scarves,  
and wish each other safe journeys through the storm.

May we be insulated from fear as the earth is insulated by the snow,

And, like bulbs, may we continue to grow and open inside, despite the cold,

Ready for the spring, to stretch and grow towards justice.

Amen