

Photographs by Jessica Worden-Jones

St. John's Episcopal Church Healing Prayers

Adapted from the *Book of Occasional Services, The New Zealand Prayer Book, The Book of Common Prayer*

*Dear St. John's Member - This book of prayers is a resource for your home use. We especially encourage you in your **Ministry of Prayer** in this time when we are physically distanced from one another. You can use this book in a variety of ways: pray one section of it; pray one prayer each day, or pray the whole booklet using different scriptures each day. You may also wish to call a friend and pray sections of the book together. However you use this resource, know that **you** are a blessing to the St. John's family, and that you are being prayed for by others. Love and peace to you.*

HEALING PRAYERS

OPENING PRAYER

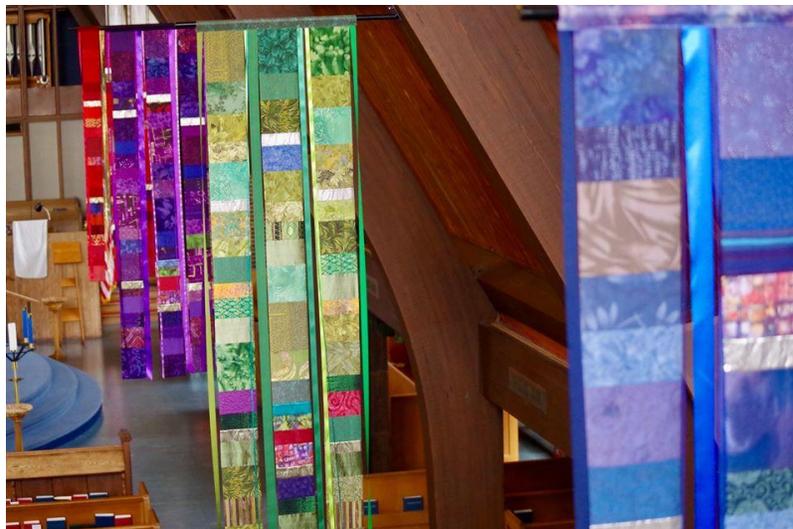
† Grace and peace be with us:

With all who pray,
with all who have asked for our prayers,
and with all people in our church, in our community, and
throughout the world who are in need of hope and healing.

A moment of silence is kept to remember all those in need of prayer.

Leader Let us pray.

All **O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**



READING OF SCRIPTURE

One or more of the following Psalms may be read

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
*Selah**
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Selah

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations have been brought on the earth.
God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
and breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
God burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Selah

**Selah is a Hebrew word that may mean "for ever"; it may also mean "pause, reflect on that." When we put the two words together, we may stop at the end of each refrain, and reflect on the eternal truth of what has just been said. "Selah."*

Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

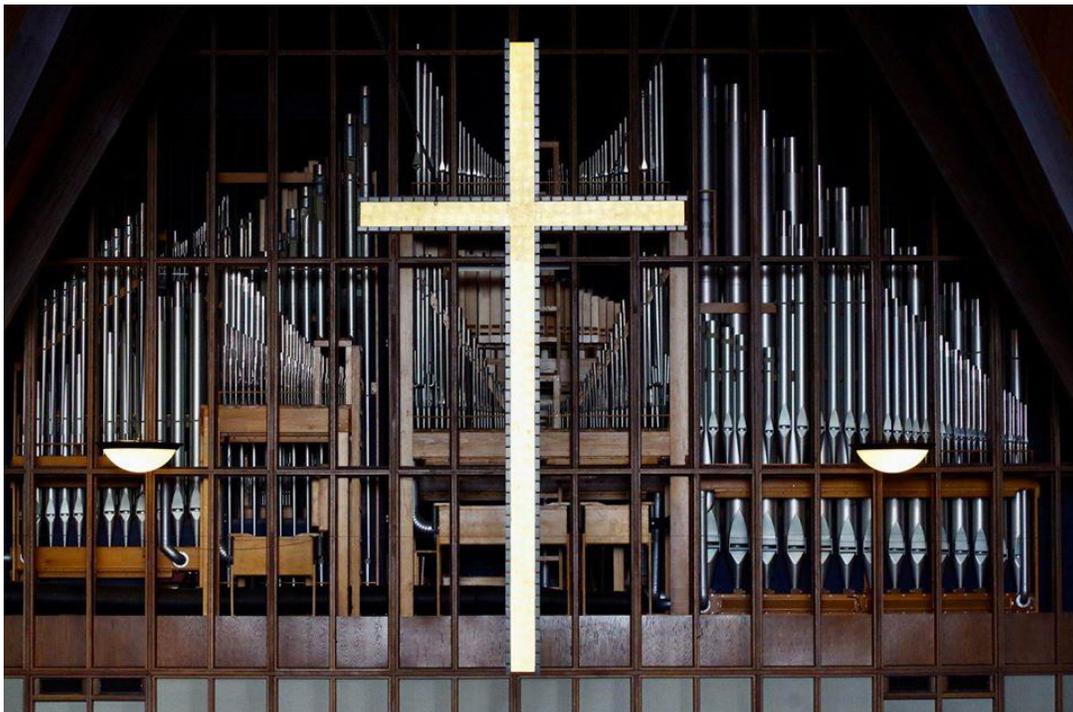
At the conclusion of the Psalm/s, the following may be said

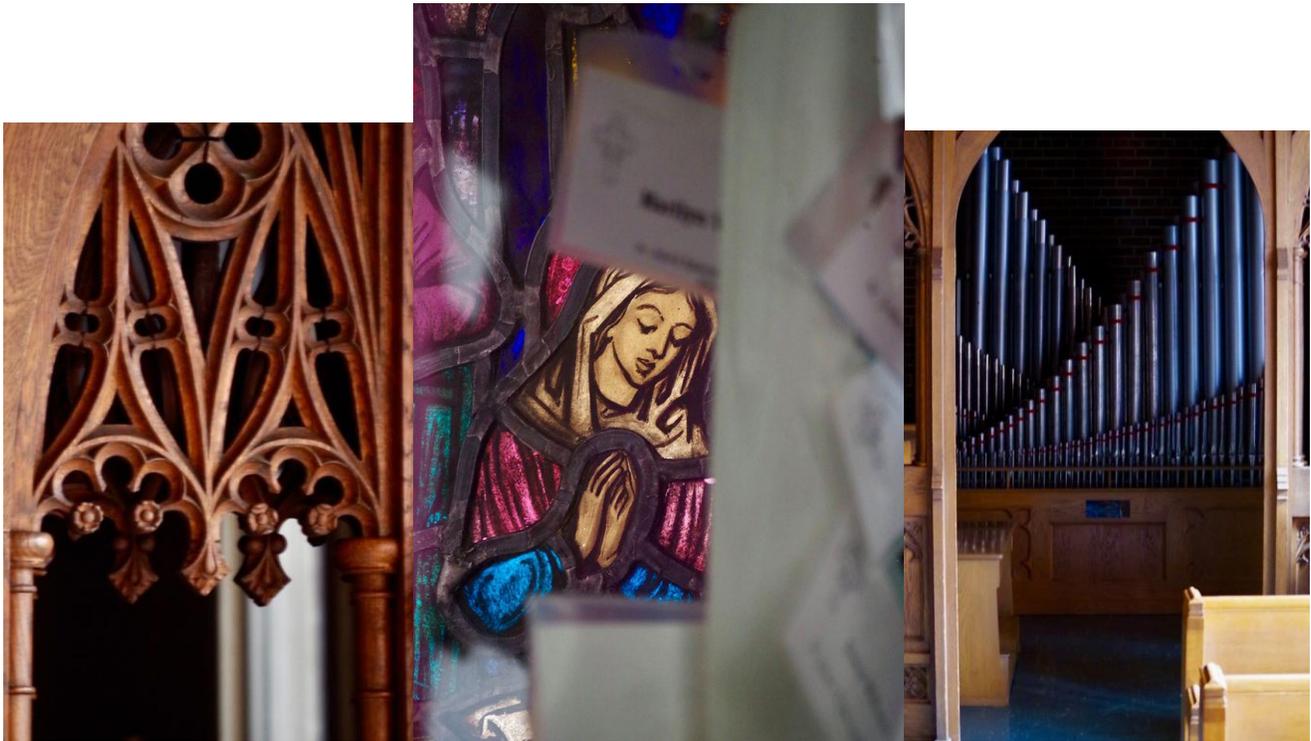
All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

One or more of the following scripture verses may be read. Consider reading a different one each day.

Romans 8: 26-27 - 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8: 35, 37-39- ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.





2 Corinthians 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

John 14: 15-17 - ¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

John 14: 23-27 - 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The Readings may be followed by silence for a time of reflection.

THE INVOCATION

Leader Like the first disciples
before the coming of God's power at Pentecost,
we wait in faith, and pray.

Silence

All **Be with us, Holy Spirit;
nothing can separate us from your love.
Be with us as of old,
fill us with your power,
direct all our thoughts to your goodness.
Be present, Holy Spirit;
bring faith and healing and peace.**

Leader The Lord is here.

All **God's Spirit is with us.**

You may wish to now read the Litany of Healing which includes the names of people who have requested our prayers for healing and wholeness. Please include them in your prayers, and name before God your own prayers and intercessions.

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

I/We pray for the healing of this nation, and all nations and peoples.

Creator, your will for all people is health and salvation;

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

I/We pray for those who are unemployed or under employed, and for all those who face addictions, chronic illness and pain, abuse, violence, abandonment and betrayal. We ask for strength in the face of despair, frustration, worry, anxiety and fear. God the Holy Spirit, you see us and bring us into your presence;

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or suffering and their families; especially Rachel, Janet, Holly, Maddie, Della, Celia, Bob, Emily, Greg, Gregg, Philip, Gloria, Pam, Bruce, Nancy, Sandor, Kathy, Linda, Kathryn, Maura, Toni, Scout, Martha, Sue, and those we now name ____; I/we pray that they may be made whole;

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

For all who work for healing and hope; for doctors, nurses, researchers, and all emergency first responders. Give courage and aid to those affected by current dangers, and to those who put themselves at risk of the COVID virus in the process. May they know your protection and your strength.

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

For children and youth who miss the structure and rhythm of life. For those missing sports seasons, proms, class trips, and other important milestones. For parents who have become teachers in the absence of school in addition to their regular responsibilities and routines. For those who have had to postpone or cancel weddings, graduations, confirmations, baptisms, and other momentous occasions. For those without access to technology or other means to stay connected to friends and family. I/we pray that they may be reassured with your hope.

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Good shepherd, who tends the vulnerable and weak, help us to remember that we all depend upon you for every need. We pray for the residents in local nursing homes, hospitals and care facilities and those who care for them. For those whose homes are unstable, and for those who have no shelter. We pray for all who suffer, especially those who are despised, persecuted, and forgotten. I/we pray that they may be comforted.

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

I/We pray for the homebound in our own community, that they will know our care and concern for them, and that they will know your comfort: especially those we now name _____. Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

I/We pray for those who are bereaved: and for all those who have died, especially those we now name _____; Give them eternal rest.

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

I/We pray for St. John's, and for the hopes and petitions of all of our members. For all the ministries of St. John's, especially for Open Hands Food Pantry and Garden, the Phone Tree, the Card Ministry, for those making and delivering masks, and for those imagining and planning our lives together in coming days. In all things, grant us the courage to pursue your will in our ministries, and the grace to accomplish it,

I/We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

I/We thank you for the blessings of this life, especially for all those graduating from high school this year; and for those we now name _____. You are the Lord who does wonders:

You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

And in your light I/we see light.

Hear me/us, O Lord of life:

Heal me/us and make me/us whole.

I/we also pray for *(add your own petitions)*____. **Amen.**

You may wish to pray for those celebrating milestones in their lives this month.

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY AND MILESTONE BLESSINGS

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A period of silence follows.

Leader Let us pray.
All **God our healer,
keep us aware of your presence,
support us with your power,
comfort us with your protection,
give us strength
and establish us in your peace. *Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray:
All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. *Amen.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All **Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide
our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that
we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use
us, we pray, as you will, and always to the glory and welfare of
your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.***

Leader Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Prayers that can be said at any time:

PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness; joy.
Grant that we may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

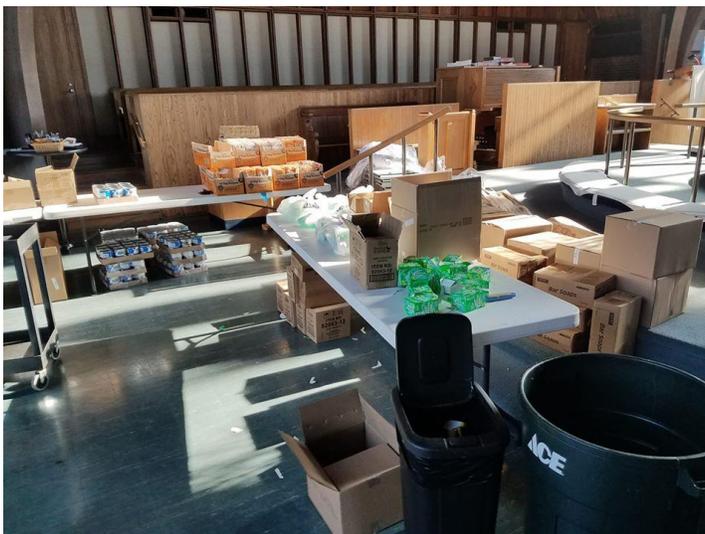
A PRAYER IN THE MORNING

This is another day, O Lord. I know now what it will bring forth,
but make me ready for whatever it may be.
If I am to stand up, help me to do it bravely.
If I am to sit still, help me to do it quietly.
If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently.
If I am to do nothing at all, help me to do it gallantly.
Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE ABSENT

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts
of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold
and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend
them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both
they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together
by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the
fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Pray for Open Hands Food Pantry and Garden



Open Hands Food Pantry - Current Operation. The COVID crisis has prompted us to revamp our operation. Because St. John's Episcopal Church is closed for in-person worship right now, the Open Hands Food Pantry has moved their receiving and assembly work station from the lower level of the building right into the sanctuary. This allows the volunteers to spread out, to work no more than three at a time, and to avoid the stairwells, elevator, and small work spaces that we generally use. Some pictures of the current operation are included here.

Our primary objectives are to get emergency food to people (many of them are coming to us for the first time), and to maintain safety for the people receiving the food and for the volunteers. We have moved to a "drive up" operation: People drive into our parking lot and stay in a line in their cars, and volunteers place pre-assembled bags into their trunks. All the volunteers meet guidelines for low-risk for COVID, wear masks and gloves, and maintain a safe distance from others. So far we have been able to serve approximately 100 households per week

Thank you for your prayers for Open Hands! If you have any questions, call 248-721-4325.



Times when you may wish to contact a Clergy member:

- When you or someone in your household is seriously ill or hospitalized;
- When you need food, a mask, or some other tangible and immediate need;
- When you are going through a major transition of any kind (job loss, move, diagnosis of illness, etc.);
- When you have significant questions – about life, faith, meaning and purpose;
- When you have a joy to share (new birth or adoption, engagement or marriage, graduation, significant birthday or anniversary, major milestone);
- When you are suffering any trauma or loss;
- When you or someone in your household is dying;
- When you are looking for or considering a volunteer role, ministry, or program participation in the church;
- When you are considering or preparing for a baptism, confirmation, or marriage, or to pre-plan a funeral/memorial service.
- If you would like more frequent calls from someone on our Phone Tree, or if you are not receiving calls.

The Rev. Beth Taylor 248-721-4325 bethtaylor@stjohnro.org

The Rev. Beth Bingham 248-721-4325 ebingham@stjohnro.org

The Rev. Dcn. Tim Spannaus deacon@tspannaus.com 248-346-2529



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Phone: 248-721-4325 (during COVID crisis)

Ministers: The People of St. John's!

website: www.stjohnro.org | Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnroyalok/

Everyone is Welcome! Everyone Belongs!