

Morning Prayer B Week of 5.13.24 **Choosing the Way of Life**

Choose life over death, when a choice can be made that puts no soul in jeopardy. -Janet Morris

On every continent a revolution in human dignity is emerging. It is re-knitting community and our ties to one another. So we have a choice. We can choose death; or we can choose life.
-Frances Moore Lappé

It seems to me that one ought to rejoice in confronting with passion the conundrum of life. One is responsible for life: It is the small beacon in that terrifying darkness of savagery.
-James Baldwin

OPENING SENTENCES

O God, you summon the day to dawn; you teach the morning to waken the earth.
Great is Your name, great is Your love.

For you the valleys will sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Great is Your name, great is Your love.

To you the monarchs of earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.
Great is Your name, great is Your love.

Your love and justice shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.
Great is Your name, great is Your love.

PRAYER:

From before the world began and after the end of eternity, you are God. From the sea bursting from its womb to the wind ceasing from its chase, you are God. In the vastness of the universe and the forgotten corners of our hearts, you are God.
You are our God, and we bless you.

In our busy thoughts about what this new day will demand, help us to choose life.
Come, Holy Spirit. Though we find ourselves surrounded by things that bring death to both body and spirit, strengthen us to choose the Way of Life.

Because the world is beautiful, and beauty is a tender thing, and we are caretakers of creation, we need you, God.
We need you, God.

Because the intensity of our busyness often leads to a distorted sense of urgency that can both burden our spirits and prevent us from being truly and deeply present, we need you God.
We need you, God.

Because we think we can live without you and often worship our wisdom alone, we need you, God.
We need you, God.

Because you came among us and sat beside us and heard us speak and saw us ignore you and healed our pain and let us wound you and loved us to the end and triumphed over all our hatred and gave us new and eternal life, we need you, God.
We need you, God.

Because you, not we, are God, we need you, God.
We need you, God.

Pause...

Listen, for the God who created us says, "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. Choose the abundant life that I have made possible."

Pause...

So we respond:
Maker of all, we are your children, the creatures of your kindness, the bearers of your image. This day, we will walk by your light, follow your Son, and live by your Spirit. This day, we will choose the Way of Life, even as we care for our work and responsibilities.

**For this is the day
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice
and be glad in it.
Amen.**

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 tumult.

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.

“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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Listen with your heart for God's Word to God's people.

Monday- Acts 17:24-32

Tuesday- Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Wednesday- John 10:1-10

Thursday- Romans 6:19-23

Friday- Romans 8:31-39

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

A silence is kept...

PRAYER OF CONCERN

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and

ill-health, along with their families,
friends and those who care for them...

pause...

May they experience new life in your healing grace.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer in mind and spirit, whose anguish is great...

pause...

May they experience new life in your healing grace.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those persecuted in our world, and the places where people experience division, injustice, and violence...

pause...

May they experience new life in your healing grace.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those facing bereavement. We also pray for those who have died...

pause...

May they experience new life in your healing grace.

May your wisdom, God, guide nurses, doctors and those who work in every part of our health service and across the world – and all who live in service to others. God of compassion and love, we offer you all our suffering and pain. Give us strength to bear our weakness, healing even when there is no cure, peace in the midst of turmoil and love to fill the spaces in our lives.

All glory to God from whom all love flows, who brings light to the darkest places. Amen.

CLOSING

We give this day to God.

We will choose the Way of Life.

Love will be our cause.

*Liturgy adapted from the Iona Community
and A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek
God: Norman Shawchuck & Rueben P. Job*