



July 24, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
July 24, 2022
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to justice.

We gather in community today – July 24, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. There is ample room to socially distance, and you are welcome to wear masks if that is comfortable for you. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

We gather in this season after Pentecost also called Ordinary Time, a season of the commonplace and regular, the everyday time, between the feasts and grand celebrations. It is the regular time in our lives when faith lives, grows and sustains. Green is the colour for the season, evoking nature, growth, vitality, freshness, harmony, endurance and fertility. It is associated with healing and rest—the depth and stability of blue combined with the warmth and joy of yellow.

Announcements

- **The Melville Garage, Plant and Bake Sale** will continue for one more weekend, **Friday July 29 and Saturday July 30 from 10-4** both days. Your donations are still appreciated. Contact Lorna Bevcar for details.
- **Knox Presbyterian Church in Elora** is holding an online Silent Auction during the month of July. Items can be viewed at Knox's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/knoxelora or in person at Knox Church Saturdays in July from 1-3pm. Winners will be notified on July 31. The event will wrap up with a Hootenanny on July 31st starting at 6pm with the No Name Band and Friends. There will be hotdogs and ice cream available and the hat will be passed.
- **Kairos Blanket Exercise – Save the Date!** The Kairos Blanket Exercise has been developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and educators. It is an interactive and experiential teaching tool that explores the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the land we now know as Canada. It is a 2 to 3-hour workshop and will be offered **at Melville on Saturday, October 1st 1:30-4:30pm**. It is intended for those 14 and over, and is limited to 25-30 participants. Please contact Rev. Lynda to reserve a space.
- As more and more people find their dollar shrinking, and having to decide between rent and three meals a day, the demand for food bank assistance rises. We ask you to prayerfully consider if you are able to **support the food bank**, either with a donation of food, or financially.
- **Indigenous-Themed Summer Reading List** – for anyone who is interested Shining Waters Regional Council offered a list of recommended readings on Indigenous history and contemporary relationships. The list is located on the bulletin board across from the Chapel.

- **Ukraine Appeal**

The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. Many millions of people, displaced from their homes, are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many have lost friends, loved ones, and property; struggle to meet their basic needs; and face an uncertain future. **United Church Mission & Service partners are responding to the rapidly unfolding crisis—visit our website at <https://united-church.ca>, scroll down to Ukraine Crisis and click on the Act Now button to find out how you can show your support and make a gift.**

- **Gifts with Vision** These gifts are perfect for those difficult to buy for people. There's no going out, no standing in line, no wrapping. And you will be helping out those in need near and far. Items address healing and reconciliation, leadership, counter racism, wellness and safe spaces, education, poverty and hunger, the future, Mission & Service. Gifts range from \$5 to \$140. Gifts include food for the north, help build a well, purchasing Covid vaccines for the Global South and East, and much more. You can find the full catalogue at www.giftswithvision.ca.

- **New Gifts with Vision for Ukraine**

A gift of \$25 will provide families fleeing Ukraine with a **hygiene kit** containing items like toothpaste, laundry detergent and disinfectant

A gift of \$38 will provide **one food basket** with staples such as cooking oil, buckwheat, canned fish and more

A gift of \$40 provides **one hygiene kit plus a supply of incontinence products**

You can find the full catalogue at www.giftswithvision.ca

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Land Acknowledgement *Peter Chynoweth, **Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022**, p.33. Used with permission.*

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun,

Haudenosaunee,

Anishinabewaki,

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,

Odawa and

Mississauga nations. We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent—Treaty No. 4 and the Haldimand Treaty, that outlined the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

Lighting the Christ Candle: *Bill Perry, **Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022**, p.34, alt. Used with permission.*

(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)

We carry our Christ candle with us as we live our daily lives.

We carry it acknowledging our unique gifts and limitations.

We carry it into our own shadows.

We carry it as we live into the pathway of discipleship to which we are called.

Yet sometimes we become distracted.

At times, we get lost in digression.

At other times, we become disillusioned and set it aside in order to go our own way.

**Today we intentionally light afresh the Christ candle within us and among us,
naming its light as grace, promise, hope, and full life,
a strength and power for today and tomorrow.**

Thanks be to God.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer: *Gord Dunbar, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.38. Used with permission.*

Come to worship, knowing God is faithful,
inviting each of us into active faith.

**We trust in God who is the fountain of love,
who renews us each day through our living,
who calls us to follow the Way of Jesus.**

Come to celebrate new life in the risen Christ,
our hope and our abiding gift.

**We rejoice and dance in the assurance of forgiving mercy,
the place where justice and peace meet,
the hope of joy in our discipleship.**

Let us join together in prayer:

We come, O God, to listen.

We come, O Christ, to follow

We come, O Spirit, to dare.

**Each day you take us as we are,
restoring our passion and our courage
that we might yield your harvest.**

**Work within us, we pray,
that our very lives may speak good news,
that we might always turn our hearts to you.**

You give all of us what is good.

**May we take your gifts and do what is good,
changing lives, nurturing souls, healing hurts—
all in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn: Amazing Grace

VU266

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;

'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Call to Reconciliation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2.** Copyright 2013, alt.*

The truth about us is this:
we all sin and fall short of the glory of God.
Yet God promises to pour out grace upon us,
giving us confidence to show ourselves as we are
and be freed from shame.
Trusting in God's mercy,
let us confess our sin, shortcomings, brokenness before God and one another.
as we pray together our Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation,

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Barbara Johns, **Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022,** p.44. Used with permission.*

**Holy One, sometimes we turn away from you,
isolated by our fears and anxieties,
trapped in our busy dedication to important goals.
Thus we ignore our true purpose,
failing to pay attention to your word
and neglecting our calling as disciples of Christ.
Help us to return to the true way of love and peace.
Offer us your strength and courage to go forth
to do our part to create a more compassionate world
by following the way of the gospel. Amen.**

Words of Assurance *Barbara Johns, **Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022,** p.44. Used with permission.*

While we may falter some days and feel we are losing our way,
we rejoice this day in God's glorious gift of grace given freely to all.
We are a forgiven people.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "He Comes to Us" *by Gilbert M. Martin played by Colleen Weber*

...In the Midst: A Way to Pray

Much of the prayer in the church is corporate, that is to say we do it together. Yet there is another side to our prayer life, our own individual prayers, as we try to share in Christ's prayer to Abba God, that God's will be done, God's kin-dom come.

You don't have to know any prayers if you want to pray - in fact, words can often get in the way. Picture Jesus, and then say what is in your heart, what you feel.

Remember!

God hears every prayer - but not all prayers are answered in the way we might expect or desire: we don't always pray for his will to be done!

'Arrow' Prayers

can be offered to God anywhere, at any time.

But thankfully we don't live all our lives in moments of extreme crisis. What about day-to-day praying? We need to come closer to God, to experience His love for us and to try to make sense of where we are in the world. Prayer is the way we do this.

How to start?

Use your **hand**.



Your fingers can be used to bring to mind different things to pray for.

thumb

this is the strongest digit on your hand. Give thanks for all the strong things in your life, like home and family, relationships that support and sustain you.

index finger

this is the pointing finger. Pray for all those people and things in your life who guide and help you. Friends, teachers, doctors, nurses, emergency services and so on.

middle finger

this is the tallest finger. Pray for all the important people who have power in the world, like world leaders and their governments, members of parliament and local councillors, other world leaders and their governments.

ring finger

this is the weakest finger on your hand. It can not do much by itself. Remember the poor, the weak, the helpless, the hungry, the sick, the ill and the bereaved.

little finger

this is the smallest and the last finger on your hand. Pray for yourself.

When should I pray?

Traditionally, prayer times have been morning and evening, but you can choose a time which is best for you. It helps to be somewhere quiet, where you can have some time for yourself.

Do I have to kneel?

Kneeling is the traditional posture for penitence and standing for praise, but you can pray anywhere - walking, standing, sitting, whatever feels comfortable.

What else do I need to know?

Be creative - use music, a stone, a feather, a flower, or a candle to help you focus.

Prayer activity is a discipline - it can be difficult at times, just like keeping fit, being on a diet, or keeping weeds down in the garden! Little and often is best, but don't give up! No prayer, however inadequate you may feel it to be, is ever wasted or of no value.

May we find God in the midst of all our days.

Hymn: Over My Head

MV88

OneLicense #A-740237

Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

1. When the storms of life are ragin'
I hear music in the air
When the storms of life are ragin'
I hear music in the air
When the storms of life are ragin'
I hear music in the air
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

2. When the winds of strife are blowin'
I hear music in the air
When the winds of strife are blowin'
I hear music in the air
When the winds of strife are blowin'
I hear music in the air
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

3. When the tide of hate is risin'
I hear music in the air
When the tide of hate is risin'
I hear music in the air
When the tide of hate is risin'
I hear music in the air
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

4. O Jesus is a callin'
I hear music in the air
O Jesus is a callin'
I hear music in the air
O Jesus is a callin'
I hear music in the air
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

Prayer of Illumination *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®]
Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. Copyright 2013, alt..*

O God, as the Scriptures are read and the gospel proclaimed,
open our ears to hear your Word,
open our eyes to see your truth,
and open our hearts to receive your grace. **Amen.**

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

Jesus teaches the disciples to pray

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, "Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say,

'Abba God,

Hallowed be your Name!

May your reign come.

Give us today

Tomorrow's bread.

Forgive us our sins,

For we too forgive everyone who sins against us;

And don't let us be subjected to the Test.'"

Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend a neighbour, and you go to your neighbour at midnight and say, 'Lend me three loaves of bread, because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, And I have nothing to set before them.'

"Then your neighbour says, 'Leave me alone. The door is already locked and the children and I are in bed. I can't get up to look after your needs.' I tell you, though your neighbour will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbour get up and give you as much as you need.

"That's why I tell you, keep asking and you'll receive; keep looking and you'll find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the children asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

Prayer Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. Copyright 2013, alt..

God of Wisdom,

you promise to give your Spirit to those who ask. *Luke 11:13*

Overwhelm us with your Word as it is broken open

that we may know you more fully,

love you more passionately,

and follow you more closely;

in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

Reflection: PUSH--Pray Until Something Happens



PUSH – is an acronym for prayer: Pray Until Something Happens

It is, in a word, persistence. This saying comes from the Twelve Step tradition, in which PERSISTENCE is a key action.

Over the last two-and-a-half years we have had lots of opportunity to practice persistence. First washing our hands all the time, then getting comfortable and familiar with wearing a mask all the time. Remembering to socially distance ourselves from one another. Persisting in living “in,” in the midst of immediate family, or on our own. Then persisting in keeping our hands and our hugs to ourselves.

We have also persisted in learning and becoming comfortable with video communications like FaceTime and Zoom, to get us as close to a face-to-face visit as we can. Some of us persisted in shifting more of our focus to hobbies like baking and gardening, yarnwork and woodwork. Some of us have become online learning and homework helpers with grandchildren who had to shift to new ways of learning.

And we all had to persist in hanging on to hope that somehow, sometime, we would be able to resume something like the life we had known.

Persistence is a key component of our scripture reading today. It would be unthinkable not to offer a meal, or at the very least, bread, when someone came to your house, regardless of the time of day or night. But here is someone in dire straits—company has arrived, and there is no bread to be had. A neighbour is the only recourse. Yet the neighbour is uncooperative—we’ve all gone to bed, leave us be. The host doesn’t let matters lie, though. They have to have something to offer the guests. And Jesus tells us that while the neighbour won’t bother with the host’s needs because it’s the neighbourly thing to do, they will get up and get the loaves of bread because the host persists.

Persistence is a common theme in Luke’s gospel. Think of the widow appealing over and over to the judge for justice; the woman sweeping her house diligently until she finds the lost coin; a baker kneading masses of dough, a shepherd searching until they find one lost sheep; and this story.

So what does persistence look like for you? In these current times, a word that comes to mind is “slog”—a word that suggests plodding along, putting one foot in front of the other, struggling to keep going, but knowing needs must, and expending the seemingly monumental energy, blood, sweat and tears, it takes to keep on keeping on—but doing it nevertheless.

It might seem that the host is slogging too, doggedly continuing to plead with his neighbour for the bread, until the neighbour finally can’t stand it any more, and gets up, since clearly they are not going to be able to get back to sleep until the nagging host is satisfied. Jesus summarizes what we are called to do with God: keep asking, keep looking, keep knocking. For it is those who keep asking and looking and knocking who will have their goal realized.

We might wonder about this God who has to be poked and prodded, nagged and continually reminded to answer our prayers. Or at least, that is one way of looking at it.

I read a commentary this week by Kristofer Phan Coffman who shared about having recently read through a new Bible, or at least New Testament that has recently been published, *First Nations Version*. Phan Coffman expresses delight that the translator offered this imagery for verses 10 and 11 from this passage of Luke 10:

So, keep dancing your prayers, and the way will open before you. Search *for the ancient pathways*, and you will find *them*. Keep sending up your prayers, and they will be heard. Answers will come to the ones who ask, good things will be found by the ones who search for them, and the way will open before the ones who keep dancing their prayers” (emphasis in the

original).

And as Phan Coffman says, “What an image, dancing our prayers,” not labouring, not gritting one’s teeth, not becoming exhausted from the effort, but **dancing!**

That’s not to say that dancing is a breeze. It’s hard work as anyone who takes it seriously will tell you. There is long practice, commitment, sweat and callouses. It takes a lot of discipline to dance. But it is certainly different than slogging—having the blessing of music to flow over, around and through one, perhaps the company of others to share in the movement of body, immersing oneself in the expression of emotion and creativity. It seems such a positive, uplifting action. After thoughts of “slogging” it is a breath of fresh air! It does take persistence, but persistence as dance.

As Phan Coffman points out,

This image of dance, though rooted in Native culture and practice, resonates in the traditions of the Old Testament; it brings to mind David dancing “before the Lord with all his might” (2 Sam 6:14) or the Psalmist’s proclamation that God will “turn our mourning into dancing” (Ps 30:11).

And the thought of dance as an expression of people, has with it the sense of flow, being in the midst of a group that inspires and encourages us, suggests that we may be able to persist for much longer than we might in another sort of task of labour; that the synergy of everyone together makes us more than the sum of our parts.

When we pray, as Martin Luther said, we add our voices and thoughts to the cloud of witnesses that surround us in our Christian tradition. We know that they have come this way before, and they can lift us up and bring us the synergy of the group. Perhaps persisting is a way of refining our prayers to God, getting to the very heart of our petition, to help us in our true need.

One thing that I have experienced in deep and persistent prayer is that we can lose ourselves. It ceases to be us praying to God as individuals, but becoming part of the flow. One effect of this is that time becomes a blessing. Instead of counting the minutes or the number of repetitions of our prayer, we enter the flow of God’s love, and move into God’s sense of time, where the clock and counting don’t matter, and we become part of the rhythm. That is dancing our prayers, that is giving ourselves over to the deep and abiding presence of God. That is blessed persistence in prayer, that is Praying Until Something Happens. May it be so.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee VU560

- 1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

- 3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays:
 - Elsie Smith celebrates on July 25th
 - Diane Maloney celebrates on July 29th

Preparation for Prayer

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):

Prayers of the People *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 43, p. 61. Copyright 2022, alt.*

Gracious God,
our creator and our source,
we present ourselves
today and every day
in thanks for your Word,
your guidance,
and your love.

As we seek to be
ever more like you
and more fully our ourselves,
we come before you in prayer:

For our troubled world,
torn apart by greed,
by a failure of stewardship,
by inequality,
and by disease,
help us and all those who can
to find new ways and new strengths
to help and to heal,
to bring justice and
your saving message
to all whom we meet.

For our communities,
as we search for ways
to break the all too familiar isolation,
shine your light of
of love into the darkness
of ignorance and distance,
help us to live
and to embrace your life-giving
commandment to love our neighbours.

For your churches,
in this time of worry,
as we seek to find our place
in this world of competing priorities,
reignite the flame of faith
in the hearts of your beloved children,
help us to find new ways to
spread your mission and message
to a world so in need of your love.

For all those ill and in pain,
all those bereaved,
all those doubting,
all those struggling,
all those on the margins,
all those searching,
all those we each hold in our hearts now.

Silence

And for our searching selves,
as we try to live as you tell us,
we ask for your unending support
to help us to be more like you,
and embrace who you have made us to be,
just as we are.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Minute for Mission: Every Child Has a Right to Learn: Meshack's Story



Where would you be if you had no education?

Every child has the right to learn.

Your generous support through Mission & Service means that children around the world can go to school thanks to partnerships with organizations like the Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAARC).

School fees, violence, child labour, and discrimination mean that too many children can't go to or stay in school. KAARC brings together child rights organizations to share information about child protection and safeguarding and to support children in schools.

Thanks to your support, KAARC has established over 300 child rights clubs in schools. One of these clubs helped Meshack through primary school. A bursary program helps him pay his high school fees, and the child rights club at his school is teaching him how to be a positive role model.

"To start [going to] school was a problem. KAARC has helped me. They encouraged me a lot. They enabled me to start my primary school. Now I'm in high school," Meshack says. "The club is helping us a lot, too. They give us role models to teach us what is bad and help us be confident in whatever we are doing. I'm very happy."

Thank you for helping to break down barriers so every child can go to school, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money they have.

Offering Invitation

Giving is an act of worship, an act of relationship, an act of love.

And so, as we worship this God,
 who seeks us in relationship,
 who loved us into being,
we offer our gifts.

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do

MV191 OneLicense #A-740237

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer (in unison) *Beth W. Johnston, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.47. Used with permission.*

**Generous God, we bring these offerings this day,
and also the offerings given by PAR*
and the work of our hands and hearts.
We dedicate the cups of coffee shared,
the jars of peanut butter donated,
the listening hearts,
the drives to appointments,
and the other kindnesses we lovingly share in other ways.
We ask that you multiply our efforts
so that the world can be more the way you created it to be. Amen.**

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus **VU664**

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Commissioning *Beth W. Johnston, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.49. Used with permission.*

The world is waiting for a message of love and new life;
go and proclaim this message with all that you have.

We go, knowing that we are not alone. Amen!

Change the Light

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

Blessing *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. Copyright 2013.*

May the grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you,
this day and forevermore.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. Copyright 2013.*

Thank you, God of light, for waking me up this morning.
May I live wholly for you this day,
that whatever I say and do might help make a path for your coming reign.
Open my eyes to your goodness and my heart to your children.
I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. Copyright 2013, alt.*

Thank you, God, for the gift of this day,
its challenges and its blessings,
its burdens and its delights.
Forgive my failures and misdeeds
and refine my heart,
that I may greet the new day to live more faithfully for you. Amen.