

Morning Prayer – Thursday, July 23, 2020 - St. George's Anglican Church, Cadboro Bay
<https://www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca>

From *Daily Prayer for All Seasons, Episcopal Church USA*

Opening

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.

Prayer

Grant us, O God, not to be anxious about earthly things but to love things heavenly and, even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Meditation

Whenever I am weak, then I am strong. St. Paul (2 Corinthians 12:10b)

Where might we see strength manifested in weakness?

Scripture – 1 Corinthians 1:28-31 (Contemporary English Version – CEV)

What the world thinks is worthless, useless, and nothing at all is what God has used to destroy what the world considers important. God did all this to keep anyone from bragging to him. You are God's children. He sent Christ Jesus to save us and to make us wise, acceptable, and holy. So if you want to brag, do what the Scriptures say and brag about the Lord.

(Be still and aware)

Poem – “For What Binds Us” by Jane Hirshfield

There are names for what binds us:

strong forces, weak forces.

Look around, you can see them:

the skin that forms in a half-empty cup,

nails rusting into the places they join,

joints dovetailed on their own weight.

The way things stay so solidly

wherever they've been set down—

and gravity, scientists say, is weak.

And see how the flesh grows back

across a wound, with a great vehemence,

more strong

than the simple, untested surface before.

There's a name for it on horses,

when it comes back darker and raised: proud flesh,

as all flesh,

is proud of its wounds, wears them

as honors given out after battle,

small triumphs pinned to the chest—

And when two people have loved each other
see how it is like a
scar between their bodies,
stronger, darker, and proud;
how the black cord makes of them a single fabric
that nothing can tear or mend.

Prayers

In our daily tasks,
God surrounds us.

In our successes and failures,
God surrounds us.

In our joys and sorrows,
God surrounds us.

With the healing of our world,
God surrounds us.

We pray for all who celebrate, or seek, or need God's love:

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, THE WORLD, AND ONESELF

As we continue our day, God surrounds us in hope.

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.

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 for ever. Amen.

O Holy One, we keep still; we listen.
We hear you say, "I am your strength."
And we say to you, "You are our redeemer." Amen.

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.

Sources:

Prayers are from: *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* © 2014 by the Office of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Church Publishing Inc.

Poem – Jane Hirshfield, "For What Binds Us", *Of Gravity & Angels* (Wesleyan University Press, 1988)