

Prayers of the People
May 1, 2022
(Paddy Waymark)

God of Light
Hear Our Prayers

We seek and find your light, Creator , in so many ways in our lives. We grow under it and are grateful for each ray of light that comes our way. Your love envelopes us, that love which we seek and find in our prayers to you , that illumines our paths as we go forward under your knowing watch.

God, we are alive to your blessings every moment. The gardens of spring, the laughter of children, the antics of pets, the closeness of family and friends, the beauty of peace and the warmth of our homes surround us . They remind us of what is, and should be, for everyone we know and do not know.

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The light after a rain uplifts us. The recovery from ill health for anyone delights us. The gift of laughter restores us. The reward for a good job well done whether little or large, completes us. The blaze of colour from newly risen flowers uplifts us. Kindness, given or received, restores our faith in our humanity. Mundane tasks involving recycling, reusing and reducing is part of the stewardship you have entrusted to us.

We shine in the light of these gifts. To give is to receive and to receive your gifts keeps us alive to your love.

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We have been gifted with two in person services and we greeted them with optimism and gratefulness. How wonderful it was to be able to see and to talk with each other and to participate in services and communion as a group. They lifted us up in community and purpose. We pray that many other groups will be able to find this same lightness soon. And one day, we will be able to have the wine. Today , May 1st through 5th, we celebrate International Workers Day, National Truffle Day, World Press Freedom Day, Bird Day, Cinco de Mayo and the return of Spring!

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While the light shines brightly, we also see the forces of darkness and those things that test our will and optimism, God. The war in Ukraine is, as always, an ugly, painful and brutal contest of wills and endurance. Many have died or been injured and the country lays in ruins, especially in the cities of Kyiv, Lviv, and Mariupol. Millions of refugees, mostly women and children, have fled to neighbouring countries. Warsaw in Poland is providing much light, helping Ukrainian refugees with, food, schools, clothing, shelter and counselling. They need every bit of love, light, assistance and compassion they can get. It will be a long and hard road to recover, something we pray to remember and act upon. The knowledge and focus on facts from journalists around the world are not easy for us to digest, but what if this was happening to us? We would hope for the light of all others to shine.

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God, send your light to Heather Gray and her family, who recently lost Robert, a good man who led a good life and was the salt of the earth. He was the one who brought the cross into our church and we layered it with flowers to celebrate the Resurrection. We celebrate Eric Boulton, who turned 94 on April 25 and Jean Rhodes, 96 on April 13. We send kind and loving thoughts to all those feeling ill, especially with Covid-19. Let's take a moment now to consider those we know who are in need of peace, freedom from pain and kindness.....

We pray O God, for your light and love.
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Let us now say The Lord's Prayer as printed on your screens.