

Morning Devotions for the 134th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado

Created and Led by:

Loren Pierce-Coleman, St. George, Leadville

Rob Rose, St. John's, Ouray

Opening Collect/Prayer [LPC]

Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.

(Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.)

Silence

A reading from 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:3 (NRSV) [RR]

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

A Prayer of Response to Mary's Magnificat [LPC]

You are invited to pray silently or aloud while muted.

**My soul seeks to magnify the Lord as *my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*
for the Almighty has done good things and
though change feels slow and is sometimes hard to find,
I know that it comes. I know that it happens.**

With Mary I wait for what has been promised.
I wait for tables to be turned and power to shift.
For a scattering of the proud and a tumbling of the mighty.
I wait for new life and a new world.

For those treated as social outcasts just for being who they are
or because of events outside their control,
I pray for God's loving presence to be as real to them
as it was to Mary when she proclaimed
the Lord has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

To the *Mighty One who has done great things*
I pray for an open heart and unblocked ears
that I may hear the voices of the poor and oppressed
and act to share their struggle for justice.

For those who have experienced violence,
or been forced to flee their homes,
I pray for God's mercy which Mary promised
is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

For those who experience racial hatred
and suffer the bigotry of the narrow minded,
I pray that they might know the *Lord has shown the strength of his arm*
and the proud will be *scattered in the conceit of their heart.*

For those suffering under the oppression of tyrants and dictators,
I pray they may take comfort in knowing justice is coming
for the Lord has *brought down the powerful from their thrones,*
and lifted up the lowly.

For the poor and hungry,
I pray they may experience what it means
to be *filled with good things*
while *the rich are sent away empty.*

To the one who *helped his servant Israel,*
in remembrance of his mercy,
I pray with longing that all may have the joy of the Magnificat
as its promise is fulfilled with God among us.

[By Monica Scheifele, Ottawa Office Program Assistant, Mennonite Central Committee](#)

We invite you to use the Chat feature to share words or phrases that inspire you from the scripture reading or Prayer of Response to the Magnificat.

Prayers of the People [RR]

During the silence after each bidding, you are invited to offer your own prayers, either silently or aloud while muted.

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

In the beginning,

God was.

Here and now,

God is.

In the future,

God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet and all who work to end climate change.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, racism, prejudice and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. We pray that all peoples may respect the dignity of every person, and work for justice and peace on the earth. We pray especially for those displaced from their homes and who seek refuge.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. Grant us the will to work to end gun violence in our land.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. We pray for the hungry, the homeless and the destitute.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people, we pray especially for all those suffering from COVID. We pray for the will of each of us to do our part for the common good to help bring about an end to this pandemic.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this diocese who desire or need your presence and Help. We pray for all who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray for those suffering from mental illness and depression. We pray for those who suffer from drug or alcohol addiction.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.

Silence

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Great Spirit God,
we give you thanks for another day on this earth.
We give you thanks for this day
to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator.
We acknowledge with one mind
our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life.
Bind us together in the circle of compassion
to embrace all living creatures and one another. Amen.

*Source: Native American/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Liturgies,
prepared for the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church,
Anaheim, California, July 2009 (adapted)*

Closing Prayer [LPC]

During these turbulent times we must remind ourselves repeatedly that life goes on.
This we are apt to forget.
The wisdom of life transcends our wisdoms;
the purpose of life outlasts our purposes;
the process of life cushions our processes.
The mass attack of disillusion and despair,
distilled out of the collapse of hope,
has so invaded our thoughts that what we know to be true and valid seems unreal and
ephemeral.
There seems to be little energy left for aught but futility.
This is the great deception.

By it whole peoples have gone down to oblivion
without the will to affirm the great and permanent strength of the clean and the commonplace.
Let us not be deceived.
It is just as important as ever to attend to the little graces
by which the dignity of our lives is maintained and sustained.
Birds still sing;
the stars continue to cast their gentle gleam over the desolation of the battlefields,
and the heart is still inspired by the kind word and the gracious deed.
There is no need to fear evil.
There is every need to understand what it does,
how it operates in the world,
what it draws upon to sustain itself.
We must not shrink from the knowledge of the evilness of evil.
Over and over we must know that the real target of evil is not destruction of the body,
the reduction to rubble of cities;
the real target of evil
is to corrupt the spirit of humankind and to give our souls the contagion of inner disintegration.
When this happens,
there is nothing left,
the very citadel of humankind is captured and laid waste.
Therefore the evil in the world around us must not be allowed to move from without to within.
This would be to be overcome by evil.
To drink in the beauty that is within reach,
to clothe one's life with simple deeds of kindness,
to keep alive a sensitiveness to the movement of the spirit of God
in the quietness of the human heart and in the workings of the human mind—
this is as always the ultimate answer to the great deception.

(adapted from *Life Goes On* by Howard Thurman)

Prayer and Concluding Sentence by the Bishop

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(BCP, *Prayer for the Human Family*)

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Ephesians, 3:20, 21, EOW 1)