

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Welcome

Prelude

Psalm 141 (from *Psalms for Praying*, Nan Merrill)

Psalm Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Source of all love and life, hear our voices as we cry out to you. We call out to you, God, to fill our hearts with you Spirit, so that as we are faced with the difficulties and anxieties that life has brought us, we may remember your eternal love, and trust in the promise of your presence.

God, our strength and support, our times are in your hands: you uphold us in the chances and changes of our lives, you do not abandon us in our distress. Give us courage in this time of trial, make us gracious and generous even as we suffer, and lift our spirits that we may live always in the confidence of your nearness and love. We ask this through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Psalm 121

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

C: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

L: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

L: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

C: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

L: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

C: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

L: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

C: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

L: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

L: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

C: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, our help comes from you and you alone. Only you give meaning to our hopes, to our struggles, and to our strivings. Without you we are lost, our lives are empty. And so when all else fails us, we turn to you!

When in agony, we are bystanders to our own confusion. We look to you for peace. Give us strength to face life with hope and courage, that even from its discord and conflicts we may draw blessings. We believe you will hear us in this time of difficulty and suffering. Help us keep the image of your Son ever before us, and let us feel the healing calm of your embrace.

C: Amen.

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Prayers of the People of God

L: Surely Christ has borne our grief and carried our sorrows. Therefore, we turn to God in prayer during this time of crisis. Lord God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of the nations and all peoples, we cry to you for consolation . . .
Lord God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Unshakeable God, we call out to you in grief and anxiety . . .
Lord God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Compassionate God, send your Holy Spirit to soothe the suffering and comfort the afflicted . . . Lord God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of blessing, support our leaders and give clarity and wisdom to all making decisions during this time . . . Lord God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of love, God of truth, God of life, God of hope, you know our needs are great at this time. You know them better than we can even state them now. In your mercy, hear our prayer. In your wisdom, grant us those things that will lead us forward to wholeness, love, and peace again. For blessed are you, God, and blessed is all that you do.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

L: Now let us pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus has taught us:

P: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom 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 kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Closing Blessing

L: Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing:

The God of love be with us all.

C: Amen.

L: The Christ of grace be for us all.

C: Amen.

L: The Spirit of peace be among us all.

C: Amen.

L: Let us go forth into the world trusting the power of God's grace and love.

C: Thanks be to God.