



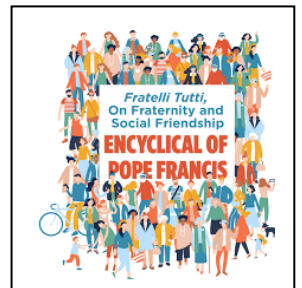
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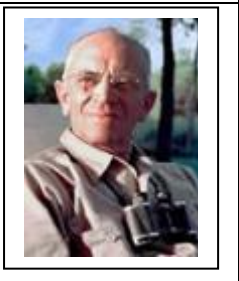
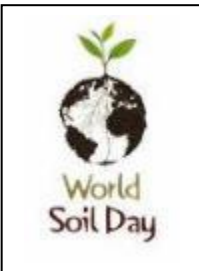

December 2020 Environmental Prayer Diary



The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The Creative Breath.</p> <p>Creative God, breath of all life Through whom all things are created and sustained; all sons and daughters flocks and herds, all birds of the air and fish of the sea You walked this earth as child and Creator You touched the soil quenched your thirst embraced this world brought life and light love and laughter into dark and death-filled lives Creative God, breath of all life Through whom all things are created and sustained We bring to you our sacrifice of a contrite and willing heart.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> Of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p>Dark Clouds Over a Closed World</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Without claiming to carry out an exhaustive analysis or to study every aspect of our present-day experience, I intend simply to consider certain trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity. <p>Shattered Dreams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For decades, it seemed that the world had learned a lesson from its many wars and disasters, and was slowly moving towards various forms of integration. For example, there was the dream of a united Europe, capable of acknowledging its shared roots and rejoicing in its rich diversity. We think of “the firm conviction of the founders of the European Union, who envisioned a future based on the capacity to work together in bridging divisions and in fostering peace and fellowship between all the peoples of this continent”.^[7] There was also a growing desire for integration in Latin America, and several steps were taken in this direction. In some countries and regions, attempts at reconciliation and rapprochement proved fruitful, while others showed great promise. Our own days, however, seem to be showing signs of a certain regression. Ancient conflicts thought long buried are breaking out anew, while instances of a myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise. In some countries, a concept of popular and national unity influenced by various ideologies is creating new forms of selfishness and a loss of the social sense under the guise of defending national interests. Once more we are being reminded that “each new generation must take up the struggles and attainments of past generations, while setting its sights even higher. This is the path. Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention”.^[8] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country




<p>Thursday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Advent</p> <p>Perhaps Advent is a good time to review our priorities. What is it about Christmas that requires us to consume and waste with such abandon? If it's true that a stable is a suitable birthplace for our God, and that even princes only need three gifts, why do we eat, drink and spend as if we were celebrating the birth of the free-market economy? We all need to understand that there is a carbon footprint for everything.</p> <p>Perhaps this year we can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop the idea that the cost of your presents has any relation to the value you place on your friendships • be generous to the planet and give thoughtful presents, with the receipt so that they can be returned if need be • Video-Skype your distant relatives and plan to see them properly another time. • Make a pact with your family and friends to keep all gifts below a strict limit and donate the savings to charity. 	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery store, and the other that heat comes from the furnace."</p> <p>Aldo Leopold <i>Scientist, ecologist, & environmentalist</i></p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>World Soil Day</p> <p>The theme for 2020 is "Keep soil alive, Protect soil biodiversity" and aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, fighting soil biodiversity loss, increasing soil awareness and encouraging governments, organisations, communities and individuals around the world to commit to proactively improving soil health.</p> <p>The gardener has a long, touchy-feely relationship with the soil. As every good cultivator knows, you assess the earth by holding it ... is it dark and crumbly, is there an earthworm or beetle in there, is it moist, and when you smell it, are you getting that pleasant earthy aroma?</p> <p>All these signs are reassuring, and have been through the ages, but they are mere indicators of something much greater and infinitely mysterious: a hidden universe beneath our feet.</p> <p>This cosmos is only now revealing itself as a result of scientific discoveries based on better microscopic imaging and DNA analysis. There is much still to learn, but it boils down to this: Plants nurture a whole world of creatures in the soil that in return feed and protect the plants, including and especially trees. It is a subterranean community that includes worms, insects, mites, other arthropods you've never heard of, amoebas, and fellow protozoa. The dominant organisms</p>	 


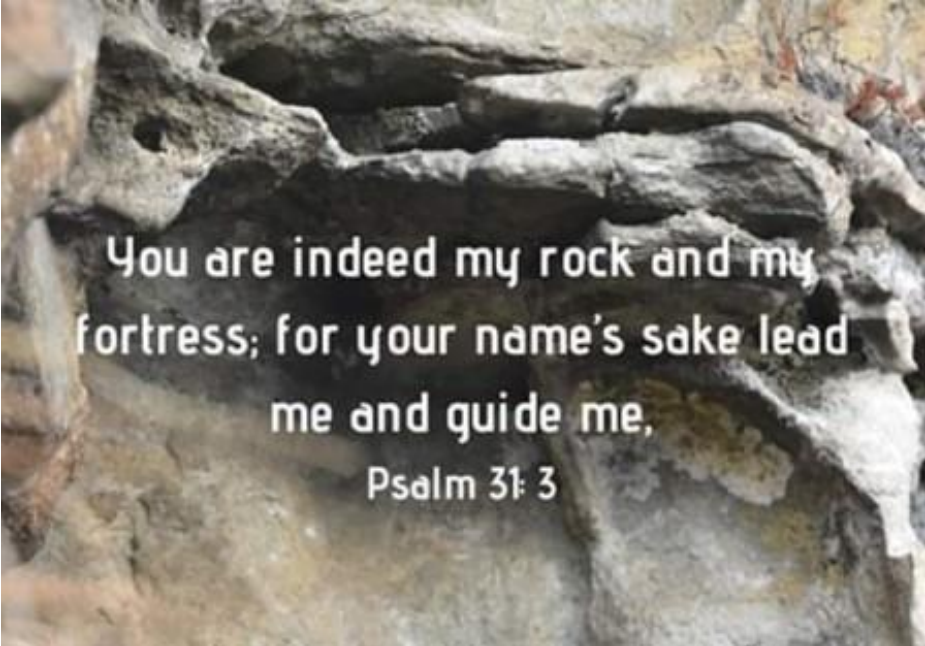
		<p>are bacteria and fungi. All these players work together, sometimes by eating one another.</p> <p>The awareness of this biosphere should change the way gardeners think about cultivating plants and heighten everyone’s understanding of the natural world. In other words, don’t ever call it “dirt” again!</p>
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Sunday	6	<p>Second Sunday in Advent – Light and Darkness</p> <p>In the beginning, Lord I was alone but when I saw you in the light I was no longer afraid. You held out your hand and though I had a choice I had no choice because to refuse was to embrace again the darkness. In the beginning, Lord I was alone now I am again a part of your creation loved, wanted, needed, family. In the light of your presence I hold out my heart that others might glimpse through it your reflection and be drawn from the darkness that I once embraced into the light of your sunrise the brightness of your face.</p> <p><i>Excerpt from</i> https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm</p>
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Prayer for the week during the COVID19 pandemic

Prayer for putting on a mask
 We bless you and praise you, Lord Christ, for commanding us to love one another. Let this mask be a sign of your love, and let my behaviour be filled with love for my neighbour. Amen

Monday	7	
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<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>“May you recognize in your life the presence, power, and light of your soul. May you realize that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe. May you have respect for your own individuality and difference. ”</p> <p>John O'Donohue Priest, Author & Irish Poet</p> 
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Here, [are] four key reasons why ecological restoration is the most important endeavour of our time. If we are to reverse the ecological crisis that we are currently facing, and protect biodiversity for itself and for future generations, we must turn pledges into immediate action and restore our ecosystems on a global level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our food systems depend on healthy soils. The revival of plants, crops and forests depends on the revival of degraded soils. • Ecosystem degradation is contributing to our failing relationship with nature: people's accepted view of ecological conditions are continually lowered, a phenomenon known as shifting baseline syndrome. • Indigenous cultures and knowledge is being lost • The restoration of ecosystems is intrinsically linked to the restoration of human health. <p>(https://theconversation.com/four-reasons-why-restoring-nature-is-the-most-important-endeavour-of-our-time-147365)</p> <p>Prayerfully consider how best you will address these issues in the New Year</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>10</p>	

<p>Friday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>International Mountain Day</p> <p><i>“Mountain biodiversity”</i> is the theme of this year’s International Mountain Day - a day to celebrate the rich biodiversity in mountains as well as to address the threats it faces.</p> <p>Mountains loom large in some of the world’s most spectacular landscapes. Their unique topography, compressed climatic zones and isolation have created the conditions for a wide spectrum of life forms.</p> <p>Biodiversity encompasses the variety of ecosystems, species and genetic resources and mountains have many endemic varieties. The differentiated topography in terms of altitude, slope and exposure in mountains offers opportunities to grow a variety of high-value crops, horticulture, livestock and forest species.</p> <p>However, climate change, unsustainable farming practices, commercial mining, logging and poaching all exact a heavy toll on mountain biodiversity. In addition, land use and land cover change, and natural disasters, accelerate biodiversity loss and contribute to creating a fragile environment for mountain communities. Ecosystem degradation, loss of livelihoods and migration in mountains can lead to the abandonment of cultural practices and ancient traditions that have sustained biodiversity for generations.</p> <p>The sustainable management of mountain biodiversity has been increasingly recognised as a global priority. Sustainable Development Goal 15: <i>Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss</i>, target four is dedicated to the conservation of mountains’ biodiversity in consideration of its global relevance. Biodiversity in all ecosystems is in focus, as the United Nations has declared 2021 to 2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and governments prepare to negotiate the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption this year at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</p> <p>Pray for all involved with the discussions and actions on ecosystem restoration.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”</p> <p>Romans 8,19-21</p>



Sunday	13	<p>Third Sunday in Advent – Obedience</p> <p>There were safer places, more comfortable places, palaces and wealthy places. Yet you chose a daughter of the soil who would have otherwise lived a good and honest life grown and harvested crops cooked and washed and cared for others and been forgotten to be your temporary home to be exalted for all time.</p> <p><i>Excerpt from</i> https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm</p>
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Prayer for the week during the COVID19 pandemic

Let us seek peace, lest we fall into despair, fear, frustration, rancour, or hatred. This unusual crisis calls us to stand up and be a light to the world, spreading messages of encouragement instead of rumours or resentment. We are grateful for the selfless work of mental health professionals who, during this time, are counselling people online. May those who struggle with anxiety and anger find help.

Based on Prayers and Liturgies for the Covid-19 Pandemic - <https://episcopalchurch.org>

Monday	14	<p>Isaiah 11:1-10</p> <p>The Branch From Jesse</p> <p>11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.</p> <p>² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—</p> <p>³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.</p> <p>He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;</p> <p>⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.</p> <p>He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.</p> <p>⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.</p> <p>⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together; and a little child will lead them.</p> <p>⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.</p> <p>⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.</p> <p>⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.</p> <p>¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.</p>
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Tuesday

15

All Things New

*Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that.
You cannot hold onto the old, all the while declaring that you want something new.
The old will defy the new;
The old will deny the new;
The old will decry the new.
There is only one way to bring in the new
You must make room for it.*

Neale Donald Walsch

My spiritual father, Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), was a master of making room for the new and letting go of that which was tired or empty. He was ready for absolute newness from God and therefore could also trust fresh and new attitudes in himself. His God was not tired, and so he was never tired. His God was not old, so Francis remained forever young.

Francis was the first to create a living nativity scene, bringing to life the revolutionary new way God revealed God's self in the vulnerability of a baby in a manger. The Incarnation of God in Jesus was foundational to Francis, and he wanted others to experience its life-changing power.

Francis was at once very traditional and entirely new in the ways of holiness. Franciscanism is not an iconoclastic dismissal of traditional Christian images, history, or culture, but a positive choosing of the deep, shining, and enduring divine images that are hidden beneath the too-easy formulas. It is no fast-food religion, but slow and healthy nutrition.

Both Jesus and Francis did not let the old get in the way of the new, but like all religious geniuses, revealed what the old was saying all along. Francis both named and exemplified that "first, churchless incarnation in the human heart." But somehow he also knew that it was the half-knowing, organized Church that passed this shared mystery on to him and preserved it for future generations. He had the humility and patience to know that whatever is true is always a shared truth; and only institutions, for all their weaknesses, make this widely shareable, historical, and communal.

Both Jesus and Francis were "conservatives" in the true sense of the term: they conserved what was worth conserving - the core, the transformative life of the Gospel - and did not let accidentals get in the way. They then ended up looking quite "progressive," radical, and even dangerous to the status quo. This is the biblical pattern, from Abraham to Moses, to Jeremiah, Job, John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph.

Gateway to Silence:

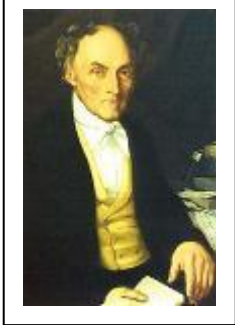

You make all things new.


From Richard Rohr's daily meditations

www.cac.org



<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Reconciliation Day <i>Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity</i> <i>An Ignatian Examen</i></p> <p>Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity is a reflection tool to heed Pope Francis' call in <i>Laudato Si'</i> to care for creation and to reconcile our relationship with God, creation and one another. With this in mind, this Ecological Examen asks you to reflect on your personal relationship with creation, to acknowledge and amend your ways and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm</p> <p>Begin the Examen by placing yourself in a posture that allows you to be open to the ways the Spirit is working in you. There are six steps in the Examen. Go at a pace that works for you: pause at sections in the Examen that you would like to reflect more on.</p> <p>1. Gratitude: I give thanks to god for creation and for being wonderfully made. Ignatian spirituality invites us to recognize that all that we are, the person we are now and the person we are becoming, the possessions we have and the earth we inhabit, is all a gift from a loving Creator. <i>Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?</i></p> <p>2. Awareness: I ask for the grace to see creation as God does - in all its splendour and suffering. Ignatius invites us to look down upon the world from the eyes of God the Trinity. God looks at the Earth and sees the great diversity of the world, the goodness of all Creation and the different people who live in the world today. <i>Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?</i></p> <p>3. Understanding: I ask for the grace to look closely at my own life and the decisions I have made. I ask myself how do I care for the gift of creation and the resources of the Earth, which are meant for the benefit of all, including our brothers and sisters around the world and future generations? How do my choices impact the environment and people in my community, nation and around the world, particularly the poor and vulnerable? <i>What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?</i> <i>How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?</i></p> <p>4. Conversion: I ask for the grace of conversion toward ecological justice and reconciliation. <i>Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters?</i> <i>How do I ask for a conversion of heart?</i></p> <p>5. Reconciliation: God calls us as caretakers of the Earth not simply to take the Earth's resources for our own benefit, but to use the Earth's resources to praise, reverence, and serve God. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship</p>
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		<p>with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. <i>How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?</i></p> <p>6. I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society</p> <p>In concluding the Examen, give thanks to God for the gift of creation and ask for God's help and guidance so we may care for creation and the most vulnerable among us, strengthened in our common pursuit for ecological justice.</p> <p>Full Examen may be found at- https://www.ecojesuit.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Ignatian-Ecological-Examen.pdf</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>"O Tannenbaum"</p> <p><i>"O Tannenbaum" is a German Christmas song. Based on a traditional folk song which was unrelated to Christmas, it became associated with the traditional Christmas tree by the middle of the 19th century and sung as a Christmas carol "O Christmas Tree." A Tannenbaum is a fir tree. The lyrics do not actually refer to Christmas, or describe a decorated Christmas tree. Instead, they refer to the fir trees evergreen quality as a symbol of constancy. The modern lyrics were written in 1824, by the Leipzig organist, teacher and composer Ernst Anschütz.</i></p> <p>O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree How lovely are thy branches O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree How lovely are thy branches</p> <p>Your boughs so green in summertime Stay bravely green in wintertime O tannenbaum, o Christmas tree How lovely are thy branches</p> <p>Let us all remember In our gift giving and our merriment With our family and friends and loved ones The real and true meaning of Christmas The birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ</p> <p>O tannenbaum, o tannenbaum How lovely are, are thy branches O tannenbaum, o...</p> <p>The pillars all please faithfully Our trust in God unchangedly O tannenbaum, o tannenbaum How lovely are thy branches.</p>  

<p>Friday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Grant us, Creator God, a new vision of your world:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A world of justice where the costs of climate change will be equitably shared between nations; • A world of plenty where sufficient food and water will be available to all; • A world of fairness, where success is founded on service, and honour is given to integrity alone • A world of peace, where order shall not rest on force, but on the love of all for this wonderful world which we all share.
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>19</p>	 <p>God spoke to me today in flowers and I, who was waiting on words, almost missed the conversation.</p> <p>Ingrid Goff-Maidoff</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday in Advent – Birth and Rebirth</p> <p>Beneath the surface of your story is an inescapable fact. You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross. Our fears, our insecurities and our sins, all that can separate us from God exchanged by your Grace for Love. We cannot comprehend the reasoning, only marvel that Salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable, who reaches out to a world in need.</p> <p><i>Excerpt from</i> https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm</p>

Prayer for the week during the COVID19 pandemic

May God inspire our minds and hearts, so that, as global citizens, we may find ways to help all people recover from the economic damage produced by this health crisis. May we rise together, united, as we should always have been.

Based on Prayers and Liturgies for the Covid-19 Pandemic - <https://episcopalchurch.org>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>The Christmas Tree <i>What it means to me</i></p> <p>At the top is a star shining so bright, like the one that shone that first Christmas night. or an Angel, like those who to the shepherds did sing “Glory to God ... “ for the newborn King.</p> <p>The tree, made of wood, with its branches spread wide, is like the cross upon which our Saviour died. It’s colour, evergreen, means life everlasting which can be yours if you will just ask Him.</p> <p>Its lights, shining so pretty and bright are like “the Light of the World”, God’s Son, Jesus Christ. Like pieces of tinsel, too many to count, are God’s unending mercies – they freely abound.</p> <p>The ornaments are a bright crimson red like great drops of blood that for you He shed. Garlands, gracefully wrapped around the tree, is like God’s grace which wraps you and me.</p> <p>The gifts under the tree are as nice as can be but the greatest gift ever is Jesus, you see, for He came to this earth to die on a tree So you and I from sin might be free.</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>“Our challenge is to create a new language, even a new sense of what it is to be human. It is to transcend not only national limitations, but even our species isolation, to enter into the larger community of living species. This brings about a completely new sense of reality and value.”</p> <p>Thomas Berry <i>“The Ecological Age,” in The Dream of the Earth.</i></p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meagre barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.</p> <p>The greatest gift of all came that first Christmas. It wasn’t wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. The greatest gift came wrapped in the flesh of baby Jesus and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Our perfect gift would later be rewrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the rugged wood of a cross on Calvary, all because of love.</p> <p>Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus’ precious name we pray. Amen.</p> <p>Hope Bollinger www.biblestudytools.com</p>	

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Prayer of Gratitude for the Birth of Jesus</p> <p>Father God, we thank You and praise You for the miracle of Your Son's birth. Thank You for bringing great JOY to the whole world! Thank You for giving us the assurance that because You came to us in the form of a human, we who believe in Jesus can know with absolute certainty that we'll spend eternity with You. We thank You, Lord, for the many reasons we have been given a merry Christmas. And we rejoice for each blessing. New life. New love. A home. A job. New opportunities. Second chances. And more. We know, Lord, that You bring the sun and the moon and set the stars in motion. You tell the ocean where to stop and the snow when to start. And we thank You for the mighty gift of Your creation. Thank You, Father, for spiritual leaders and faith-filled friends who keep encouraging us when we are close to giving up. And although we have many reasons to rejoice today, Lord, we also know December 25th can be not-so-merry for a whole host of reasons. We pray for those who are experiencing loss during Advent: relational, financial, spiritual and physical. We pray for those who are coping with loving a prodigal and our friends and family members whose hearts are far from You. We pray for those dealing with unemployment and addictions and chronic sickness... and unending pain and frustrations of all kinds. Thank You, Lord, that You are The Wonderful Counsellor and Prince of Peace, even in the midst of our not-so-merry circumstances. Finally, Lord, we ask You to grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts, when the world all around us spins out-of-control. Help us to stay focused on You, this Advent season and always. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so that we might truly have a very merry Christmas. In Jesus' Name, Amen.</p> <p>Steph Raquel, from "A Christmas Prayer for the Merry... and Not-So-Merry", Prov. 31 Ministries www.biblestudytools.com</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>25</p>	<div data-bbox="619 1301 1294 1816" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>O Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into human hearts the peace which they seek so desperately and which you alone can give. Help them to know one another better, and to live as children of the same Father.</p> <p>Pope John XXII</p>



<p>Saturday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Always appreciate what you have</p> 
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<p>Sunday</p>	<p>27</p>	
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Prayer for the week during the COVID19 pandemic

We pray that all of us, together, may use the time through which we are living as an opportunity to question and transform our values, our struggles, and our passions. May we find hope to rise again and create a world that is stronger, more united, more inclusive, more harmonious, and more loving. May we never lose faith in humanity.

Based on Prayers and Liturgies for the Covid-19 Pandemic
<https://episcopalchurch.org>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>“Our Christian stewardship demands that we care for the whole of God’s creation, and especially for our poorer neighbours wherever they may be, remembering the words of Jesus at the end of his parable about stewardship in Luke 12.48: “From him to whom much is given, much will be required.”</p> <p>Sir John Houghton <i>Theologian, Atmospheric Physicist & Nobel Peace Prize winner</i></p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Cat born with a Message to the World</p> 	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Our great and gracious God, As we come to the close of another year, we would indeed make it the prayer of our hearts that you would abide with us. We thank you that you have been with us through the days of this past year. Perhaps many a day we have not felt you near, Perhaps at times we have even felt that you have forsaken us and forgotten us but we thank you that it has never been so. We thank you that you are constantly with your people, and that you have enabled us to persevere in grace, You have comforted our hearts, You have heard our prayers, You have come so often to our aid. We pray that you will go with us into this new year. There is none of us who knows what the new year will hold, but we thank you that every moment of that year is in your hands, and you will be with your people. We thank you that with that promise girding us, we can go forward with confidence and in your peace. We pray that you will help us to walk with you in</p>	

		<p>this new year better than we have ever done before. Forgive us, Lord, for our sins and our backslidings of this past year.</p> <p>Grant to us, as the days of the new year unfold, an ever closer walk with you.</p> <p>Help us to put sin to death, Help us gladly yield our lives unreservedly to Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and God that we may regard ourselves entirely at his disposal to be, to go, to do, as he would wish</p> <p>We pray that it may be our privilege to serve him, to bring glory to him, to help others to know him better, and to help some, indeed, to come to know him for the first time.</p> <p>Have mercy, we pray, upon those connected with us who come to the end of this year and their hearts are still closed against you, still hardening their hearts against you. Spare them, O God, we pray. Grant that this new year would mark the beginning of new life in Jesus Christ. We are so thankful for the almighty Holy Spirit, for his limitless power to bring conviction of sin, to give new birth, and to draw those who are away from you to faith and to repentance.</p> <p>We pray, Lord, that you would do that in the hearts and lives of all who are upon our hearts.</p> <p>For Jesus' sake, Amen.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p>NEW YEAR PRAYER:</p> <p>Thank You Lord for giving me The brand new year ahead. Help me live the way I should As each new day I tread. Give me gentle wisdom That I might help a friend, Give me strength and courage So a shoulder I might lend. The year ahead is empty, Help me fill it with good things. Each new day filled with joy And happiness it brings. Amen.</p>



The JAEI Committee wishes you a blessed Christmas. May your homes be filled with joy, your hearts with love and your lives with laughter and that 2021 will be a positive year for us all as well as God's glorious Creation.