

March 10, 2024 ~ **Prayers of the People** ~ Kimberly Robinson Nelles

Gracious Creator and generous Spirit, There is morning mist hovering near the earth this morning... it may lift or just turn into more rain and drizzle. Our earth is thirsting for water that will be nurturing new growth as we smell the decay of the thaw that tells us that spring is upon us. In her way she is opening her heart to the rhythm of new life.

Great Spirit, help me to listen to the softness of snow falling or the ping of hail stones that mix their days with rushing waters of spring thaw and puddles that wash away the dirt of winter and provide us with the freshness of each lengthening days of light.

This is a change over season as well. For us two legged it is a time to let go of the decay that layers our lives and cause us struggle when we cling to that which is no longer feeding our hearts, mind and soul. For some, it is easy to release the clutter and for others we cling to it and fight with letting go. Help us Great Spirit to bring clarity into our homes and spaces in our heart that need nourishing.

This week I discovered heart prints and wondered in some simple ways to share them with others. It is nothing new, but it is a fresh look at the action of sharing... hugs for some people have not been felt for a long time; being patient and listen to moments of living, shared by another. Kindness and love-shared blooms. When we leave these doors, help us to smile and offer kindness to people we pass on the street. When we share our gifts of time talent and heart we may never know how you may have made someone else's heart sing or feed their heart in a way that they can feel the rhythm of kindness and caring.

Please, Courageous Creator, encourage us to share the heartbeat that offers us a pattern that helps us and others spread the warmth of a smile, a listening ear and a hug. Help us to take time to connect with our downtown folk, nature, our families from near and far, and our friends we may have not met in a while.

Compassionate God, be the strength we need today to pray for our loved ones that we are concerned about, for our loved ones that need your healing touch or presence in their lives. Give us strength and courage to let go and help us to sit in the pain and hurt at times when we feel so alone. Help us to lean on each other and on you as we are not alone even if we feel we are because you are with us even in the darkest and loneliest times.

Today we pray for those we now speak aloud or in our hearts. (invitation)

We lift in prayer those we have lost and miss each and every day. Our two legged and our four-legged gifts from Spirit. Those folk who no longer sit with us at the table. Awaken the memories in our heart space.

Despite ourselves, continue to love us unconditionally as we are all facets of your Spirit. Lighten our hearts this day as we pray for each other and ourselves. As I look out my window at the end of my prayer, snowflakes are swirling and dancing in the air! Let us dance today!

Miigwech and Amen.