

“Today is the oldest you’ve ever been. And it’s the youngest you’ll ever be.”

O God of all ages, all places, all times. O God who is and was and is to come, we are grateful for this moment in time. Where we come into your presence to worship you, and by doing so, we are changed, challenged, re-centered, and re-focused. Because here we are reminded that this world is not the end of our life journey. There is something more, something greater, something beyond our comprehension – a place in your heavenly kingdom where, you have told us, is perfect love, perfect joy, perfect wholeness. And we want to attain that, O Lord. To be at peace forever in your presence. But first, we must live our life here. And we know that you want us to live it to the fullest and best that we are able. And we do not want to disappoint you, O God. You have given us everything we need, and much of what we just want. And sometimes, we confess that we have not done the best with what we have. We have looked out for our own interests, without considering the impact on others. We have failed to look deep within and discern where you might have us change our thoughts, our attitudes, our actions. We have failed to appreciate the beauty around us, not only in nature, but in other people. We have put things off because well, we can do it another time. But we acknowledge, Lord, that this moment is all we have. We can do nothing to change our past moments, and there is no guarantee of future ones. And so we give you this moment. And, we will give you the next few moments, as we pause in silence and stillness to reflect on one area of our lives in which we can live it better, more fully, more faithfully, this day, and every day.

Lord, as the Psalmist say, “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” May it be so for us today, as we strive to make the most of the time you have given us.

And Lord we pray for others who may be finding it hard to make the most of each day. Those who are hurting, ill, abused, addicted. Those who can’t seem to get out of their own way, those who feel defined by their mistakes, those who know what the right thing is, but can’t find the strength to do the right thing. Help the rest of us not be judgmental, help us to be faithful to love them and to pray for them, and to offer whatever help or support we can. Lord there are specific people we wish to lift up. You have heard those on our prayer list, but there are others, and so hear us now as people in this congregation lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing.

Lord’s Prayer