



**Prayers for a Summer Solstice**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Put-in-Bay**  
**Adapted from the *Book of Common Prayer***

*Before or after the Prayers, you may wish to walk the Labyrinth. Suggested verse to repeat while you are walking might include:*

*The earth and heavens belong to God; O come, let us worship.*

*Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord for ever and ever.*

*Leader:* In the Name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, One God

*All:* **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.**

*All then recite a portion of Psalm 104, perhaps alternating by half verse (at the \*)*

104 *Benedic, anima mea*

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; \*  
O LORD my God, how excellent is your greatness!  
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.
- 2 You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak \*  
and spread out the heavens like a curtain.
- 3 You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters  
above; \*  
you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind.
- 4 You make the winds your messengers \*  
and flames of fire your servants.
- 5 You have set the earth upon its foundations, \*  
so that it never shall move at any time.
- 6 You covered it with the Deep as with a mantle; \*  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.
- 7 At your rebuke they fled; \*  
at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.
- 8 They went up into the hills and down to the valleys  
beneath, \*  
to the places you had appointed for them.
- 9 You set the limits that they should not pass; \*  
they shall not again cover the earth.
- 10 You send the springs into the valleys; \*  
they flow between the mountains.
- 11 All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, \*  
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests \*  
and sing among the branches.

- 13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; \*  
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.
- 14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds \*  
and plants to serve mankind;
- 15 That they may bring forth food from the earth, \*  
and wine to gladden our hearts,
- 16 Oil to make a cheerful countenance, \*  
and bread to strengthen the heart.
- 17 The trees of the LORD are full of sap, \*  
the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,
- 18 In which the birds build their nests, \*  
and in whose tops the stork makes his dwelling.
- 19 The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, \*  
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.
- 20 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, \*  
and the sun knows the time of its setting.
- 21 You make darkness that it may be night, \*  
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.
- 22 The lions roar after their prey \*  
and seek their food from God.
- 23 The sun rises, and they slip away \*  
and lay themselves down in their dens.
- 24 Man goes forth to his work \*  
and to his labor until the evening.

**Praise to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, O  
God; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever  
shall be, world without end, Amen.**

*Someone then reads:*

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

I will now call to mind the works of the Lord,  
and will declare what I have seen.  
By the word of the Lord his works are made;  
and all his creatures do his will.  
The sun looks down on everything with its light,  
and the work of the Lord is full of his glory.  
The Lord has not empowered even his holy ones  
to recount all his marvellous works,  
which the Lord the Almighty has established  
so that the universe may stand firm in his glory.  
He searches out the abyss and the human heart;  
he understands their innermost secrets.  
For the Most High knows all that may be known;  
he sees from of old the things that are to come.  
He discloses what has been and what is to be,  
and he reveals the traces of hidden things.  
No thought escapes him,  
and nothing is hidden from him.  
He has set in order the splendours of his wisdom;  
he is from all eternity one and the same.  
Nothing can be added or taken away,  
and he needs no one to be his counsellor.  
How desirable are all his works,  
and how sparkling they are to see!

All these things live and remain for ever;  
each creature is preserved to meet a particular need.

The Word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God*

*A period of silence may be kept, and perhaps the Leader may invite any present to offer brief reflections about the occasion.*

Leader: God be with You.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: 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, and the power, and the  
glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**All: And grant us your salvation.**

L. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**A. Let your people sing with joy.**

L. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

- A. For only in you can we live in safety.**  
L. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**A. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
L. Let your way be known upon earth;  
**A. Your saving health among all nations.**  
L. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**A. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
L. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**A. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

**Bountiful Creator, you open your hand to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence, and grant that we, remembering the account we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your abundance, for the benefit of the whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom all things were made, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through**

**whom all things were made, your Son Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: For whom else and what else shall we pray  
this morning?

*All may offer their personal intentions, aloud or in their  
hearts.*

*All then pray together:*

*The General Thanksgiving*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble  
thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus  
Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your  
mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth  
your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in  
believing through the power of the Holy  
Spirit. *Amen.*



**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**SERVING THE BASS ISLANDS SINCE 1864**  
***A Thin Place to Encounter the Divine***

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