



Cultivating LOVE

Prayers by Rev. Jeff Chu

God of Creation and God of Provision, Bedrock of Confidence and Blessed Assurance: We receive the testimonies of our forebears, and we remember you as the One Who Makes, the One Who Feeds, the One Who Sees, the One Who Accepts, the One Who Knows, the One Who Hears, the One Who Answers, and the One Who Affirms. You are chesed—the Trustworthy God, the Steadfast God, the God of Enduring Love. Show us what it means to have holy courage. Open the eyes of our hearts to the world around us. Unblock the ears of our souls to the cries of the suffering. Unlock the vaults of our spirits so that we might be honest and candid with you.

O Great Consoler and Curious One, Lifter of Spirits and Bulwark of Our Being, you are the One who knows us even better than we know ourselves, who loves us just as we are even as you guide us into our becoming. When we are lonely or sad, remind us that we are never alone and that, in you, we find our hope. Where we are discontent with our bodies, show us beauty for what you have made. When we are restive in our souls, bring understanding and calm.

Great Quilter and Holy Homemaker, Guardian of Children and Caretaker of Families: just as you have made us and all we love, you have promised to help and to heal, to preserve and to protect. Soothe our worries and still our fears, especially when we cannot understand your timelines, not least when it feels as if we lack what we need, and particularly when things are beyond our control.

Giver of Life and Source of Energy, King of the Sabbath and Vigilant Guardian: We are tired--so very, very tired. Guide us to surrender to the rest we need, remembering the grace that inspired your call to set our labors down. Restore us in the way that only you can, fueling us for the work ahead.

Lord of the Sunshine and the Rain, God of All Creatures Great and Small, Great Farmer and Good Shepherd: Bless the good earth that you spoke into existence. Aid us in becoming better stewards of the soils and the waters that have nourished so many across the generations. Show us what it means to live in harmony and mutuality with all of your creation.

Mighty Fortress and Tender Shepherd, Eternal Lamp and Inextinguishable Light: In a world of chaos and confusion, keep us true to your will, such that we might have the insight and the inspiration to live with faithfulness and compassion. Give us enduring attention to the things that matter to you, and do not let us be distracted by passing temptation.

Bringer of Belonging and Companion to the Faithful, Weaver of Connection and God of Great Embrace, equip your Church to proclaim good news in both speech and action, within our walls and beyond them. Help us not just to welcome and to include but also to behave as siblings and as friends. Shine your loving light into our shared spaces, such that we might spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Liberating God and Community Organizer of Kingdom Come, Source of Flourishing and Conquerer of Death: Free us from all that wrongly hinders us and our neighbors—all sin, all bigotry, all misunderstanding, all unrighteousness. Break us out of unhealthy patterns and unholy complacency, recalibrate the scales of this world's justice so that they conform to yours, and show us what it looks like to live into the kind of forgiveness that you have bestowed on us.

Great Reconciler and Ultimate Unifier, Waymaker and Compass: Guide us now along the path that you have marked out for the faithful. Help us to walk alongside one another in Jesus's footsteps, hand in hand, of one holy heart and one courageous spirit. Draw us ever nearer to you and grow us constantly in wisdom, until that glorious day when there shall be no more tears, only the joy of our belonging and the beauty of life in your radiant love. Amen.