All are warmly invited to join this faith community in prayers for healing of this world each week. Our pattern of prayer leads us to pause; to rejoice; to give thanks; to request God's intervention in particular areas of concern; to conclude with acknowledgement of God's promises love and blessing. Through 'Open prayer' we are invited into shared or personal contemplation of those things that speak to our hearts of need of prayer

THURSDAY PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD June 1st 2023

Pause

Rejoice

7Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you. Psalm 139: 7-12

Give thanks -

'I will pour out my Spirit on all people'. Joel 2: 28a

Lord we give you thanks and praise for the caregivers of this world –

· For those who go out and rescue people and children from disasters of every kind
· For those who care for children in their homes and in institutions whether they be relatives or trained carers
· For those who look after children who are sick or injured in hospitals
· For those who find room in their hearts for extra children who are suffering

15 People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Luke 18: 15&16

OPEN PRAYER

Ask - **The Welfare of Children**

All over the world it is the children who suffer the terrible damage of disaster in all its forms.

- We pray for all people suffering the horrors of war – the war in Ukraine, the civil war in Sudan, the blockades and war in Yemen, the war that is conducted by the Generals against their people in Myanmar.
- We pray especially for the children who suffer through all the privations of war - the disruption to their lives, the insecurity that comes from routines upset, homes lost and parents & family members killed or missing, and shortages of food and services.
- We pray for people suffering from hunger or disease, and especially young children and babies who are helpless and dependent.
- We pray for children suffering from neglect as their parents suffer from trauma
- We pray for children who have become orphans as a result of natural disasters, especially children who are victims of earthquakes.
- We pray for rehabilitation of Australian children in detention and reform of the system
- Children who are victims of bullying and hatred on social media.

OPEN PRAYER

12 For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
13 He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
14 He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight. ***Psalm 72: 12-14***

Yield - ***Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1: 9***

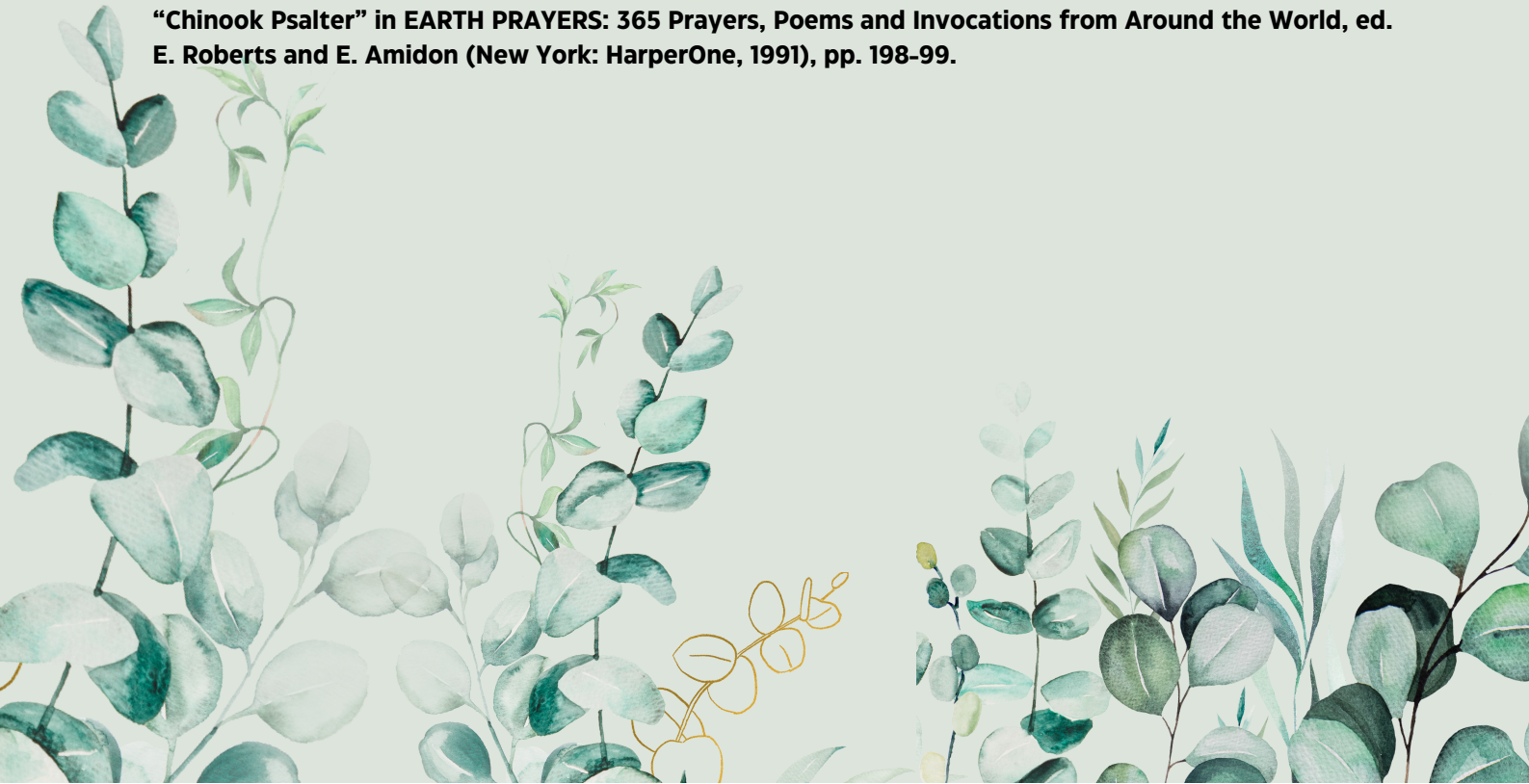
Blessing -

Blessing of galaxies, blessing of stars
Great stars, small stars, red stars, blue ones.
Blessing of nebula, blessing of supernova,
Planets, satellites, asteroids, comets.

Blessing of sun and moon, blessing of earth,
Oceans, rivers, continents, mountain ranges
Blessing of wind and cloud, blessing of rain

Fog bank, snowdrift, lightning and thunder.
Blessing of green plants, blessing of forests:
Cedar, Douglas fir, Sword fern, Salal bush
Blessing of fish and birds, blessing of mammals:
Salmon, Eagle, Cougar and Mountain goat.

May all humankind likewise offer blessing:
Old woman, young woman, wise men and foolish
Blessing of youthfulness, blessing of children
Big boys, little boys, big girls and little ones.

Bless the wisdom of the holy one above us;
Bless the truth of the holy one beneath us;
Bless the love of the holy one within us.

"Chinook Psalter" in EARTH PRAYERS: 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations from Around the World, ed. E. Roberts and E. Amidon (New York: HarperOne, 1991), pp. 198-99.