**Prayers for People**

By The Rev Anthea Ballam

**The Healer**
(Dedicate to the Rev Verity Jones)

Change this day
With your love

Touch the hearts
Of those you meet
With a tender thought

Bless the downhearted
The lonely and dejected
With a beautiful wish
For you have the gift
To understand suffering

It’s the most gentle hands
Of calm and compassion
Serenity and service
That hold the power of the
universe
The power to heal

And when things are calm
And waters are tranquil under
the moon
Don’t forget
It’s not enough to care for us
You must love yourself
In equal measure
With equal love

So today
I bask in the warmth of the sun
And celebrate with all things
made well
By you and your guiding spirit

**A Prayer for Mothers**

The mother is the beloved spirit
The divinity lives through her

We rest in the warmth of her love
Her patient steps echo on dusty paths
Yet the immensity of the cosmos
Will not possess her
From the beginning
To the end of time

She alone takes the hand of her child
Guiding each faltering step towards
tomorrow
She alone nurtures and loves,
With a calm tenderness
Her gentle touch heals
Her smile brings forgiveness
From the beginning
To the end of time

She above all
Will carry her brood from danger
Without thought for herself
Soaring spirit of the sky
Earth mother, soul mother
She holds us close to her heart
Where once we heard the music of life

Her gift is love
For she is sacred
The divinity lives through her

Blessed is the mother
For she is gentle in grace
And blessed are we
Her children
That cherish her memory
In time
In place
In life
And in death
Today, tomorrow and forever