**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