

## 2025 Morning Prayer Annual Report

Morning Prayer is offered at 8:00 am, Monday through Friday, via livestream on Facebook.com/smaaabq. The service is led by a devoted group of laity and clergy, including prayers for the people of the parish in their life and work that day. The short service, drawn from The Book of Common Prayer and Enriching our Worship, includes psalms, lessons from scripture, and the offering of intercessions from the parish's prayer list. The morning prayer booklet is available at: <https://www.stmichaelsabq.org/bulletins>. All are invited and welcome to participate.

This form of Morning Prayer was originally adapted by the Rivendell Community, a group of lay and ordained women and men who commit to a common way of life, including daily prayer. The service emphasizes thankfulness and devotion to God and gentleness of space to offer love in response to God's love for us. It was introduced at St. Michael's Church by the late Pepper Marts, in the Spring of 2007, who was both a parishioner and a member of that community. After Pepper Marts passed in 2017, George Thatcher continued the practice and officiated. When public worship was suspended in March 2020, we began streaming our morning prayer service so that we might continue this practice of offering daily prayer in community. The response was astounding. Over the first few weeks of online streaming, a small band of five or six grew to include nearly two dozen people!

At our February 11 gathering in 2024, an attendee commented that online morning prayer was a "grounding way to start the day". Another stated it "allowed me to make connections with people and form friendships that I don't think I could have formed any other way." Multiple participants noted "it's a very big part of my life." For all these reasons and more, we continue the tradition of praying together day by day.