



Prayers

Stir up the power of your Holy Spirit to create reconciliation and justice where we cannot. We are enmeshed in the sin and hurt and futility of a fallen world. But you, O God, have raised Jesus from the dead and poured out the Spirit of your new creation. Reconcile us to one another across the divides we alone cannot cross, in the justice and wholeness only you can create.

Heavenly Father, we pray for unity and love in the church of Jesus Christ; that people of every color and culture in Christ would know one another more truly as brothers and sisters. Your word tells us that you will be worshiped by people of every tribe and language and people and nation. O God, make it so among us even now.

Lord God Almighty, we lament the current distress of our nation and we ask for your intervention. We implore you that every precious life would be protected – lives of minorities, lives of the unborn, lives of the hopeless, lives of the mentally ill, lives with deep roots in this land, lives who have recently arrived -- each and every precious life for whom You gave Your precious life.

God of all justice, we pray for just laws. Wherever discrimination and injustice remain, we pray for equity and fair treatment for all people, on earth as it is in heaven.

God of peace, we pray for de-polarized, non-defensive pursuit of truth, unity, and equality. We pray for well engaged minds. Set us free from the competing narratives of our culture wars that funnel us into opposing camps and make of us a house divided. Kindle in us a desire for your truth that is larger than our desire to have been right.

Soften our hearts to one another. Give us eyes to see our common humanity, each of us and all of us created in your image, and give us the gift of empathy, to care deeply about one another.

Blessed are the Shalom-makers, for they shall be called the children of God. We confess that we have all sinned and fallen short of your glory, O God. We have broken the peace and wholeness of your good world. Forgive us, lead us, and restore us. Reform us into peacemakers instead of peace-breakers.

Heavenly Father, your prophet Isaiah proclaimed Jesus the Messiah as the Prince of Peace. We pray that your Shalom Peace would come to our nation. We pray that all people in our rich ethnic diversity would experience safety and security. Grant that we might be a nation where every neighborhood street breathes with Your calm and tranquility. Let us be people who discuss our differences with love and respect. We pray that in every home, people might both lie down and sleep, for in you alone, O Lord, can we dwell in safety.

We pray against the evil one, who comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. We come against the powers and principalities of this present darkness, that seek to divide us against one another by race, gender, economic status, or political affiliation, and pray for the curse of injustice to be broken in your world.

Father, cause those whom you have set in authority over us to lean not to their own understanding, but to acknowledge you in all their ways. Direct their paths, Lord, that they may speak in ways that will heal our divisions, and to act in ways that will overturn inequalities and lead to peace.