

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

We worship you as Triune God, and today we wonder at the love you pour out in our midst. Thank you Father for creating us and this universe. From you comes all goodness and joy – we're so grateful for gentle smiles, evening breezes, nights full of bright stars. Thank you Jesus for making us righteous, for uniting us to God, for saving us from our sin. In you we find all hope – we're so grateful for your sacrifice on the cross made once and for all. Thank you Holy Spirit for turning us toward the things of God, for empowering us to live lives of compassion, mercy, justice, and grace.

Spirit, giver of life, we pray this morning for our world. There are so many markers of grace and so many markers of sin – may we live grace-filled lives so that in all we do we witness to your love and mercy. We mourn Covid-19 and all its implications on our livelihoods – on our health, our economy, and on our ability to enjoy each other's presence. We mourn divisiveness in families, the mistreatment of prisoners and immigrants, the abuse of women and children – all this we lament.

Right now God, we may also feel out of touch with each other, and even with you. We may feel a sneaky uncertainty in many areas of our lives or a general aura of unease. We bring all those feelings to you in prayer, and though they may be bundled up and difficult for us to unravel, we bring them to you anyway, because you are faithful in hearing us and deciphering our cries out to you.

And so we cry out to you in the hope – the real hope – that you are working to make all things new. And we praise you, God for the ways your grace weaves into this world, too. For stunning sunrises, for your Word, for acts of justice and mercy. Teach us, by the Spirit, to be marks of grace in this world.

God, comfort and be near to those grieving someone they love today. Heal and watch over those of us struggling with a disease, injury, or other health issue: we pray particularly today for Sharon Hecker. Strengthen and heal her Lord! We worship you as Lord of all life, and we pray that you move through physicians, therapists, pharmacists, and so many others to take care of your children. Use us, too, to offer mercy and share in the goodness of Jesus.

Lord, we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thank you. Together, we pray the words Jesus taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.