

May 3, 2020 Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We praise you, God almighty, for the power you have shown in creating the world. We thank you for your love in redeeming us from sin and in creating us anew in Christ. Grant us strength in this life to honor you, Lord God, both in worship and in witness, for Jesus Christ's sake.

We thank you, Lord God, for the loving communities in which you have placed us, our families, friends, co-workers, and fellow Christians. We thank you for the different roles we play in these communities in different seasons of our lives, and we ask that you would strengthen us, comfort us, and bless us when those seasons change and we take on new roles. Care for us during this time of physical distance in our communities, and comfort those who are lonely.

Give strength and confidence to students who are engaged in online studies and are preparing to take exams in the coming weeks, or who have already concluded a semester of study, and give perseverance to those teachers who are teaching online and will grade papers or who will conclude their teaching in the next month or two. We thank you for equipping people for these important vocations of teaching and learning.

God over all the world, we thank you for sending your Spirit to build your church and for using your church to communicate the love of Jesus Christ to the world. We pray for Calvin Church, and for our Elders and Deacons and Care Coordinators as they guide us in following your mission for the church. Care for those members of our church who are sick or who are grieving. We pray especially today for Jan Wilkins, Bert and Julie Bowden, Miles and Sarah Colago, Marian Heerema, Ann Shooks, Sharon Hecker, Gary and Melanie Burghraef and Chase and Morgan, and all those who are on our hearts.

Heavenly Father, we lament to you the ways in which our world is so different from the world you intend it to be. We lament that many of your children live in poverty and hunger. We lament that your children are sick or dying from COVID-19 or other illnesses. We lament the realities of war and unrest, and we pray for peace around the world.

Ever-faithful God, you have knit together as one body in Christ those who have been your people in all times and places. Keep us in communion with all your saints, following their example of faith and life, until that day when all your saints will dwell together in the joy of your eternal kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.