

Everlasting God,

We are called by you. You know each one of us by name, and you bring us into your presence today. You bring us individually, and you bring us collectively – as Calvin Christian Reformed Church, as a church, as a part of the body of Jesus Christ.

Lord, as a community rooted in Jesus, we celebrate and mourn with each other, and with you. Though we don't know all the ins and outs of each other's lives, we know that life brings so many joys and challenges. We pray today for those experiencing grief right now – for the Burghgraef family as they mourn Melanie's mother Judy, and the Bowden and Colago families as they mourn Julie's father. Wrap them in your arms, Lord.

God, we know people wrestling illness or disease or rehabilitation, and we pray that you make your presence known to them. And may your presence bring healing, comfort, and peace. We bring John and Ann Shooks, Marian Heerema, Sharon Hecker, and Jan Wilkins before your face this morning; may your Spirit guide them in their treatment and recoveries. May you never leave their side.

We know people struggling emotionally and spiritually, and we ask the same for them: that you would embrace them, heal them, comfort them. We pray for caretakers in our congregation, too – folks who spend morning and night caring for someone they love. Bring them strength, Lord, and show us how we can come alongside them, as well as the lonely and isolated, to offer respite and connection.

Today on Mother's Day, we thank you Lord for the nurture, courage, care, strength, and love of our mothers. So we celebrate with those for whom this is a happy day, but we also lament with those for whom this is a sad or complicated day. May your Spirit infuse all of our relationships so that through them we experience your joy.

As your people Lord, we know that our worship takes place in a world flooded with injustices and tragedies. Remind us that our worship continues into all of life – that we worship you in how we treat the oppressed, the hungry, the impoverished. Fill us with your mercy so that we show mercy, day in and day out. Overwhelm us with your love, Triune God, and let your Spirit run through us. Set us free from a tendency toward selfishness; open us up to each other and make your image so evident in the people we meet.

In all things, Lord, keep us in Christ. We are unceasingly grateful for Jesus, who saves us, who prays for us, who reigns in heaven on our behalf. And it's in Jesus' name that we pray the prayer he taught us:

**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.**