

June 7 Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O Lord, with the Psalmist, we lift our voices in prayer to you: protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge. You are our Lord, we have no good apart from you. You are our chosen portion and our cup; you hold our lot. Therefore our hearts are glad, and our souls rejoice; our bodies also rest secure. For you do not give us up to Sheol, or let your faithful ones see the Pit. You show us the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Lord, protect our community and our world from the COVID-19 virus. Bring success to the scientists developing a vaccine, and peace and comfort to those who have lost loved ones. Give patience and grace to all of us as we continue to struggle to find ways to protect each other as a community.

Here in our own church community, we pray for those who are recovering from surgery, like Kim S, or preparing for surgery, like Bruce K. We pray for those who grieve, and especially today we pray for Hap H and his family after Sharon's death earlier this week. We pray for the community of Family Assistance volunteers who will miss Sharon dearly, and for her friends throughout this congregation who grieve this loss. We thank and praise you for the hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which conquers death.

Lord, we lament and confess the sin of racism in our country. We lament that your image-bearers with black and brown skin do not feel safe. Protect these children of yours. Work in all of our hearts and empower us by your Spirit to work actively against racism in the systems of power in our communities and in our own attitudes and ideas. Open our eyes to the vision that your Word gives of a world in which all peoples dwell together in unity, and open our hearts to receive that vision with hope and expectation.

We pray for the church of Jesus Christ in every land. We pray for our missionaries, and we pray for other churches in our Classis, Grand Rapids East, and thank you for the partnership we have with them in gospel ministry and for the expression of the unity of your body that we enjoy with them.

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.