

*June 21 Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession*

Hear our prayer, O Lord; give ear to our supplications in your faithfulness; answer us in your righteousness.

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us.

God, you formed the church by the power of your Holy Spirit. We trust that you will continue to sustain the church around the world by the power of that same Spirit. Guide us to serve you and to be ministers of reconciliation in this world. Strengthen those who face persecution because of their faith. Form us into a people who, in the name of Jesus, oppose racism and the subjugation of people. Form your church into a people of hope, into a people who pursue shalom.

We pray also for our denomination, the Christian Reformed Church. Although we are a small denomination, we represent a variety of regions of North America, a variety of missions throughout the world, various ages, races, ethnicities, and political perspectives. Give us unity in your Holy Spirit. Thank you for your provision for the church at the meeting of the Council of Delegates, doing work in absence of an annual Synod assembly this past week. Bless our ministries together. Use us, by your grace, for the work of your kingdom.

Guide us as a congregation here at Calvin Church. Give wisdom to our council leaders. Give perseverance and care to our pastoral staff: Pastor Brad, Pastor Jake, Pastor Lynette, and me, and to Kim, Doug, Ken, and all who lead us in our service to you.

On this day when our nation celebrates fathers, we thank you for the fathers we have known, for those who support us, who love us with grace and forgiveness, who teach us about Jesus, and who model for us what it is to follow him in the path of Christian discipleship. Thank you for those who step into this fathering role, even though they may not be our biological fathers, for grandfathers, step-fathers, fathers-in-law, adoptive fathers, mentors, single mothers, and friends. Give your loving care, O Lord, to those who are missing their dad this year because of death or because of absence. Watch over those who have a broken relationship with their own father, and watch over those men who would like to be fathers but who are not able to be. We need your love and care, O Lord.

Spirit of promise, Spirit of unity, we thank you that you are also the Spirit of renewal. Renew in the whole church the passionate desire for the coming of your kingdom, which unites all Christians in one mission to the world. May we all grow up together into him who is our head, the Savior of the world. It is in his name, our Lord Jesus Christ, that we pray. Amen.