

Lord God,

We come into your presence today knowing full well that you are where we are. Like the psalmist says, if we ascend to heaven, you are there, and if we make our bed in the depths, you are there. You find us where we are. And we admit that can be intimidating sometimes; like Adam and Eve, we are embarrassed and ashamed, so we hide from you. But in this moment, we turn to face you as you face us, and we bask in your compassion and in your mercy. No matter where we are right now, in darkness or in light, you find us. You love us. Thank you Lord.

So God, find us where we are today. For those of us wrestling with sickness or injury, be near to us. Guide us as we recover, and bring healing to our bodies and our souls. Bend down beside Bruce Klanderman, John and Anne Shooks, Marian Heerema, Irene Wiersma, Kim Stapert, and so many others; by your Spirit, whisper your presence into their ear. Give them strength and courage.

Others of us find ourselves in emotional or spiritual turmoil – our doubt or depression or anxiety or stress seem to grab hold of us regularly. Release their grip, Almighty God, and speak your joy to our hearts. Remind us again and again of our identity in Christ, and sustain us when we feel lost.

Thank you God for your faithfulness, and the way your Holy Spirit sustains this world. And yet despite your promises, our senses are overwhelmed by the havoc sin wreaks on our world. Our world feels especially fraught right now: an uptick in Covid-19 cases, rampant and thorough racism, violence, divisiveness. We condemn the sin in our hearts and in the world in name of Jesus. Almighty God, we ask that your Spirit equip us to be servants of the Prince of Peace.

Mighty God, we ask for your Spirit to instill resurrection hope into our hearts and our hands, so that our daily reality is not overcome by darkness but instead flooded by the hope of your new creation. Don't let us despair Lord! And in your mercy, come quickly Lord Jesus.

God, where can we go from your Spirit? And to who else can we turn? Only to you, the Lord and Savior of the universe. We celebrate you God, and we delight in your ways. In the remainder of our worship, in the rest of our day, in the minutiae of our week, draw us closer to you. And because we don't always know how to pray, thank you for Jesus Christ, who prays for us and with us. In his name, 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.**