

July 12, 2020

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Gracious God, because we are not strong enough to pray as we should, you provide Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit to intercede for us in power. In this confidence we ask you to accept our prayers.

We praise you, Creator God. You commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, created the vast universe and called it good. You made us in your image to live with one another in love. You gave us breath of life and freedom to choose your way. You promised yourself in covenant with Abraham and Sarah, told us your purpose in commandments through Moses, and called for justice in the cry of prophets. Through long generations you have been faithful and kind to all your children. We love you, Lord. Great and wonderful are your works. Your ways are just and true.

We praise you, Redeemer God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him.

Hear our prayers, Lord, for peace around the world. We pray for peace in our own nation, and for an end to racism and racial violence which have plagued us for so many years and which continue to plague us today. Give this church of mostly white Christians a heart for racial justice and for pursuing the dignity of all your image-bearers, especially those people of color whose dignity has so long been denied.

Holy Spirit, intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. We struggle, we sigh, and we trust that you hear us and make sense of our prayers. Hear our prayers, Lord, for those among us who are sick or suffering. Comfort those who mourn, merciful God, whether from the death of someone they love, or the end of a relationship, or a missed opportunity, or a loss of memory.

Faithful God, we thank you for providing for your church throughout the ages, and for providing for Calvin Church in so many different ways. We thank you for the provision of leadership through our council and staff, and we ask that you would grant them wisdom and grace each day.

God of glory, you see how all creation groans in labor as it awaits redemption. As we work for and await your new creation, we trust that you will answer our prayers with grace, and fulfill your promise that in all things you work together with us for good for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.