

*Invitation to prayer:*

God calls us to be a praying people.

In the letter to the Philippians, Paul tells them (and us):

“Do not worry about anything,

but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Let us join, then, in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and intercession to God.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

We praise and thank you for the gifts of your Word and the Supper. We listen and celebrate in anticipation of a greater feast to come, fully in your presence - you with us, and us with you.

We praise You for Your church

gathered out of every nation, family, people, and language.

We thank you for the church in all the world,

for churches in North America, Africa, and the Middle East,

for churches in Asia, Latin America, and Europe,

for young churches and old churches,

small churches and large churches.

Grant to the church true humility and unity.

Grant to the church truth and wisdom.

We thank you for the care-takers of the church,

for pastors, elders, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and committees.

Give them the spirit of willing service and true humility.

Give them a sense of spiritual devotion.

Give them delight in You and in those whom they serve.

Grant that they may lead your people in the way of Christ.

We pray for all peoples of all nations.

We pray that in every land there might be peace and true justice.

Grant that in our own communities

those who are troubled,

those who suffer,

those who are discouraged

might find support in time of need,

especially from your church.

Particularly we remember before you  
the work done for the troubled, the suffering, and the discouraged by the deacons in our  
congregation.

Triune God, we pray for our nation and those who lead the nation:  
the president and his advisors,  
the congress and the courts.  
May they seek true wisdom, peace, and justice as they govern our nation.

We pray for those who have special needs.  
To all who suffer any sickness or weakness, give health and strength.  
We pray for the continued healing and recovery of Bruce Klanderman and Natalie  
Poortenga.  
To all who are disturbed or troubled, give rest and understanding.  
To all who are lonely and alienated, give fellowship and love.  
To all who grieve and sorrow give comfort and assurance.  
We pray especially for June and Bruce Klanderman and Bob and Beth Schoone-Jongen  
as they grieve recent deaths in their families.  
To all who are uncertain about their future, give hope and discernment.  
We pray especially for Ruth Lemmen as she seeks your will for her ministry.

All these requests we present in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who perfects our prayers. **Amen.**