

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession
August 9, 2020

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we are completely dependent on you. We need you to wake us up each morning, and we need you for the air that we breath. We need you to welcome us into prayer, we need you to give us the words to pray, and we need you to intercede on our behalf. Hear us, gracious God. We know that you have promised to hear us, and so we approach you with confidence. You know the thoughts of our hearts; guide us to pray in a way that helps us to seek you more and more each day. Mighty God of mercy, on this first day of the week, the day of resurrection, we thank you for the resurrection dawn bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you for the beauty of your creation seen in the whole spectrum of things tiny and things bigger than we can imagine. Thank you for the glory of the galaxies and the stars and the planets, light-years away from us, and thank you for the glory of the tiny cell, working and growing with millions of other cells to make up life. We thank you for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness.

We thank you for the sustaining love of family and friends. When we are weak, you provide people around us who are strong, and who are generous, and who love us in spite of ourselves. We see your love in them, O Lord.

We thank you for the fellowship of faith in your church, both here at Calvin Church and in your diverse church around the world and throughout history. We thank you that this church is bigger than us, and that you have promised it will continue after us.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray for those who govern nations of the world. We pray for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare.

We pray for all who work for peace and international harmony, at large governmental levels and at smaller levels of individual relationships.

We pray for peace and justice in a time of continued of racism and inequality in our own nation, O Lord. Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for all who strive to save the earth from destruction, and we ask that you would give us all energy to care for your creation and to be the stewards you have called us to be.

We pray for the church of Jesus Christ in every land.

We pray for those who mourn.

We pray for those who live with mental illness, treated or untreated, known to others or kept a secret. Eternal God, you never fail to give us each day all that we ever need, and even more. Give us such joy in living and such peace in serving Christ, that we may gratefully make use of all your blessings, and joyfully seek our risen Lord in everyone we meet. In Jesus Christ we pray, and we pray together in the words he taught his disciples:

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.