

Triune God,

We see you around us in so many ways. We see the sunshine, the songs and struts of birds, the green grass and colourful flowers. We see patterns in numbers and letters and are amazed at your organization. We hear the laughter of children and the creativity of artists and we join you in your delight of them. We get our hands dirty greasy or dirty and we are grateful that you aren't afraid to get dirty in your work, either. Thank you for entering into life with us. Thank you for walking and working with us.

We pray for construction workers, especially those working on our roads and highways. Guard and protect them in their work. May those driving on the road around them drive in ways that respect and honour the lives of those working near them.

We pray for students - those going back to school and those doing school from home. We pray for them as they manage a variety of emotions, of excitement and anxiety, fear and joy. May they know that you walk with them into school, that you enter their online classroom with them, or that you are sitting near them as they listen to a parent teach. May your presence bring them comfort and peace.

We pray for teachers, administrators, custodians and all others entering schools again - give them courage, enthusiasm, creativity, and perseverance for their work. May they also feel your peace-filled presence with them as they manage their own range of emotions.

We pray for parents who are sending their children back to school or keeping them home for online or homeschooling. May they be supported no matter their decision. Rather than anxiety or fear, may your peace that passes understanding guard their hearts and minds. May they trust you and your love for their children.

We pray for those who have already gone back to work and those who are entering their workplaces for the first time in months. As workplace life looks and feels different, may they feel you at work around them, and your love and peace inside of them. May they be agents of your love, justice, and peace in their part of our world.

We pray for those who are not going back to work for various reasons. Show them ways in which they may find purpose and joy in each of their days. Give them courage and grace in times of silence and solitude, especially when voices other than yours speak loudly inside of them.

We pray for the new refugee family that has just arrived. May they feel welcomed in Grand Rapids, loved by you and your people. May your Spirit bring calm to their minds, peace to their hearts, and trust in your love for them.

We pray for Calvin Church. We thank you for your faithfulness to this church and all who worship here. We pray for endurance and love across the distance, as we worship away from each other. We pray for unity among us, as you are united, Triune God. We pray that your Holy Spirit would breathe new life into our willing souls. May we as individuals and a corporate body hunger for your ways. Open our hearts, our eyes, and our ears to you - in is and around us. Give

us curiosity for your plans and wisdom as we discern those plans. Give us courage to follow you. May we truly be your people as you are truly our God.

God, I thank you for the time that I have been able to spend with Calvin Church these past two years. Thank you for bringing us together through the seminary. Thank you for the safe and loving space that Calvin has been for me as I grow into the person that you are calling me to be. I thank you for the opportunity to lead this church before you in prayer, to share your word with them, to learn to confess with them and receive your forgiveness. Thank you for the relationships we have developed. Walk beside us in this transition, grateful for what has been and excited about what will be in my life and the life of this church. May we, as Paul often did, thank you each time we remember each other and what you are doing in and through us.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for your promise to be with each one of us this week. May we be attentive to the ways in which you are working in and around us. Draw us closer to you, deeper into your love, day by day.

And now, God, we close with the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

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.