

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

September 20, 2020

Lord, we praise you because you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we thank you for graciously hearing our prayers and for always inviting us into communion with you. You are our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer. You rule over the vast universe, and you care about us, small though we are. We praise you for your power and for your love.

God of time and of eternity, this season of pandemic can feel that it goes by quickly, that we have no sense of time or a different sense of time now, or it can feel that it drags on slowly – we long for an end, and yet we anticipate more waiting ahead of us. We trust in your sovereignty over all time. We are bold to ask you to bring an end to this pandemic. Guide the scientists who seek a vaccine, guide the doctors and nurses and health care workers who care for the sick and who care for the health of our communities. Watch over those who are most vulnerable.

God, we hear in your word that you care greatly for the vulnerable, and that you promise to lift them up. We lift up to you in prayer the aged, the very young, the unborn, people of color, refugees, survivors of abuse, and all who find themselves on the margins in our world. Continue to send your Holy Spirit upon all your church, that our heart would match your heart more and more, and our actions would reflect your love.

Heavenly Father, care tenderly for Calvin Church in this time of transition for our staff. Thank you for Makalah's presence among us, and continue to equip her for the new things you've called her to in this season of life – her studies and her ministry here at Calvin Church. Thank you for Pastor Jake's ministry, over decades of obedient and gifted service in your church, and now especially over these last three and a half years as our Minister of Visitation at Calvin Church. Thank you, Lord, for what you have done through him. Thank you for his and Marian's continued desire to serve and praise you in this next season of their lives. Bless them, as you bless us so richly through them.

Gracious God, hear our prayers for the west coast of the United States, plagued by wildfires and in many places fearful of the destruction that this may bring. Keep them safe. Strengthen the firefighters and other first responders. Care for your whole creation and sustain and renew the face of the earth, as you have promised us by your Spirit.

God of all nations, Lord over all the church, bring unity among your people in this time. We confess that it is sometimes so difficult to understand one another, to hear with empathy the words of others that seem to us so wrong or so misguided. Guide us into all truth, and strengthen us to see each other through the eyes of our Lord Jesus, who looks upon all with compassion. May we behold your glory itself on the face of your image-bearers every day.

God of mercy, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of Christ. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray in the words he taught us:

**Our Father...**