

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession 9/27

Let's pray together,

Heavenly Father, we come before you this morning with hearts of gratitude for all you have done for us. You have shown your faithfulness throughout time and we are grateful for your everlasting presence.

You created the world in beauty, from the trees to the stars. Your handiwork is all around us. You intricately designed the seasons so that at the appointed time the landscape changes to welcome in a new time of year. As we see the leaves begin to change and signs of fall emerge around us may we be reminded of you, our Creator and Sustainer.

Just as you created the birds of the air and the fish in the sea, you also created each of us in your own image. May we claim our identity as your image bearers and strive to see the image of you in others. In this time when so many things seem to divide, may we see others the way you see them. May we love them the way you love them and would we show them the grace you have shown us.

Thank you, Lord for the way you emptied of yourself to become human and sacrificed for us on the cross. Your death and resurrection made everlasting life possible for us. Lord may we emulate your selfless life in our service to others, giving of ourselves to draw people to you.

Father, it seems there is so much chaos going on in our world. From a charged political climate to racial tensions, wild fires, tropical storms, and sickness. It can seem like everything is unstable. But scripture reminds us that you are constant. You are our Rock and our Refuge. You alone never change. You are our Healer and Redeemer. You have the power to speak a message of peace and hope into the fear. May we cling to your message and share it with those around us.

In Psalm 62:8 you tell us to pour out our hearts to you because you are our Refuge. Right now, more than ever it seems a refuge is exactly what we need. So, we come before you today with our hearts wide open. In many ways we have seen the chaos of the world in our own lives as well. We think of anyone feeling lonely, scared, or hopeless. We pray for the lost, abused, sick and hurting. Lord I pray that you would fill the lonely with your presence. Fill the hopeless and lost with your light. Lay your healing hands on the sick. Free our communities from all forms of abuse; and bring your justice and shalom into those situations and into our world.

Thank you for the way you guided your people throughout the Bible and appointed leaders to walk alongside them. You appointed Moses to lead the Israelites and guided the early church in Acts through leaders like Peter and Paul. Thank you for continuing to place leaders in our lives today. We pray for the leaders of our world, nation and state. God give them wisdom and guidance. We thank you for the council and pastors you have appointed here at Calvin Church. As the church discerns how to move forward, we pray for your continued wisdom and guidance.

Lord thank you for being our Father who cares. We are assured that you have heard our prayers and in confidence we pray as Christ taught us: **Our Father...**