

Triune God,

We confess with the Heidelberg Catechism that we belong, body and soul, to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you Lord for bringing us home, for giving us an identity, and anchoring who we are in who you are. By your Holy Spirit, unite us to Christ so that we know we belong, so that we end our seemingly endless search to find ourselves. Allow us to discover ourselves in you and your promises, and to be at rest in your presence.

God, we know there are many in our families, in our communities, even some of us, who do not feel at rest. Who do not experience peace or who struggle to know that they belong. At times, our world feels lonely and isolating, so please shape us into a community that communicates your incredible hospitality. Let our community of Calvin Church give just the slightest taste of what it means to belong, in body and in soul, to Jesus. Transform us into a Sabbath people – a people of rest.

We pray your healing rest over some sisters and brothers this morning. Give strength and a continued recovery to Sufi Stoner as she fights COVID-19 in Turkey. Grant peace to those who are mourning a loved one. Give courage to those recovering or rehabilitating from injury or illness. Deliver those who feel the crippling effects of loneliness, isolation, injustice, racism. Keep your arms beneath us all, so that we are encouraged daily, even hourly, by the deep love of our God.

Lord, we cannot ignore the devastation left in the wake of wildfires in California and Hurricane Laura in Louisiana. Please be with the people of those places who are affected by these disasters. We call on your healing rest, and we pray for relief efforts already in motion. And we ask, Lord: how can we contribute to Your healing in these places? How can we be your disciples in such a strange time?

Those are our questions in all things, God: how, by your Spirit, can we follow your healing, and how, by your Spirit, can we be disciples of Jesus Christ day in and day out. Please energize us toward your mission in the world. Do not let us be dismayed or disillusioned or weighed down by cynicism. Instill your hope in our hearts. And Lord, keep us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior who 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.**