

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

October 4, 2020

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves, you know what we need, you know what we desire, and we trust that in the name of Jesus you perfect our prayers and hear us as we come before you today. We praise you, God, for your creative power, for your redemptive love, and for your sustaining presence in the world and in our lives. We thank you for a world rich with your blessings – rain to give life, changing seasons to enjoy, bodies that can move and embrace and heal, art and music to enrich us even more, communities and families in which to share your love.

Holy Spirit, thank you for your work to renew us and to give us faith in Jesus Christ. We praise you for the way you enliven the church and include us in your mission to the world. Inspire us to share the love of God in Jesus Christ with everyone we meet. Thank you for missionaries who lead us in this work and who allow us to experience the unity of your church around the world. Thank you for the work of Resonate Global Mission, and of all of the missionaries and agencies who are partners of Calvin Church in this neighborhood and around the globe.

God of all nations, thank you for your Holy Spirit's power at work in the church around the world. On this day that some churches recognize as world communion Sunday, we are grateful to gather around your table in the unity of Jesus Christ. As we feast on your word and on the sacrament, give us joy in who we are as your gathered people. Heal our divisions, and give us the mind that was in Christ Jesus, to empty himself and give to others.

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick and you made time for those in need to come to you, and so we bring before you today those on our hearts who are in need – those who deal with illness of body or mind, those who are grieving a death or another kind of loss, those who are victims of abuse or trafficking, refugees. Hear our prayers, Lord, as we hold these people in our hearts and minds. We pray especially for Ruth, Amy, John, and those whose needs are known to you alone.

Thank you, God of love, for the ministry that Pastor Jake has blessed us with here at Calvin Church. Give your blessing to him and to Marian as he transitions to a new phase in his retirement and concludes his service as our Minister of Visitation. Continue to show him the ways that he can serve you in your kingdom, and use us to be a blessing to him and Marian.

Loving God, we offer these prayers, joining our voices to the great chorus of those who sing your praise and depend on you alone. We long for that day when all your children will live in your peace and praise your name. Until that day, give us sturdy patience and enduring hope, rooted only in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.