

Almighty God,

Morning and evening we come to delight in the words of our God. To delight in your presence, to be washed in your mercy, covered by your grace. Because you have proven yourself trustworthy time and time again, we can come to you in the confidence that you love us and hear us. So we do that right now, and we quiet our restless hearts and minds in the assurance that you will center us, and in the assurance that our restless hearts find rest in you.

And God, we name you Sovereign, recognizing your loving rule over not just our lives but over the whole world. Here at Calvin Church, we are one small part of your body around the world, in one tiny corner of your good creation. Unrest seems to be building in other corners of our country and our world – in Washington DC, in Armenia and Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, neighborhoods of Grand Rapids, in our neighborhoods. We pray that you, the Lord of all life, might move in every place – that your justice will reign and your peace triumph. Imbue wisdom and understanding into the hearts of our leaders; mold us into ministers of your justice and reconciliation.

Lord, we feel and experience unrest too, so like the Psalmists we come to you searching for comfort and healing. Please be with those wrestling with injury or disease; may they recover quickly and gain strength steadily. Bend down to some battling depression or fighting against deep anxiety; make your presence known and bring rest to their hearts and minds. Speak your presence softly to the lonely, and may we find ways to comfort those longing for community. Dear God, unrest might be too small of a word for what some of us are going through at the moment, but our prayer is still that we know your peace and comfort.

God, thank you for the missionaries we support here in Grand Rapids and around the world. May we learn from them, continue to pray for them, and use their example to find our mission as your ambassadors. Allow our worship today to send us out, fueled by the Holy Spirit, to carry your grace into every corner of our lives. Ignite our identity as those sent by you, wherever we might be.

In our seemingly endless search for rest, quiet us Lord, and redirect our ambitions, desires, and hopes in Christ. By your Spirit, bend us carefully back to you. Whisper your word in our ears and write your word onto our hearts. All of this we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray this prayer:

**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.**