

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession: October 18, 2020

Heavenly Father,

We come before you this morning grateful for another week and another opportunity to worship you. Thank you for the means to worship together virtually and bring praise to your name. Living God, we praise you for who you are. You are gracious and holy, perfect in power, full of love and full of grace. You are our Creator and Sustainer; constantly recreating, molding and making us. We praise you for your blessings; for community, family and friends; for the harvest, the changing seasons and your fingerprints that we see all around us. We see you in the rustling of leaves, the autumn colors in the trees and the rain replenishing the earth.

Day after day we are constantly reminded that this is not our home. Our hearts lament at continued unrest and division in our communities, state, nation, and world. But you remind us to be still, because you alone are God. Thank you for the way you govern this world with love and power, and for the reminder that you are in control. May we find peace knowing that truth.

Almighty God, you have called your church throughout all ages to go into the world and make disciples and you extend that call to us today. We praise you for the work you have done in our world and our city through organizations like Resonate Global Missions, World Renew, and the Family Assistance program. May you continue to bless them in the work that they do. Lord, in your word you promise to equip us for your work, and for that we are grateful. You have sent your Holy Spirit to empower us and guide us as we follow you. May we carefully listen for and follow the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

As we begin reflecting on what it means to be sent people, open our hearts and minds. Let us fully embrace what it means to share your love with our neighbors. Expand our views of your call for us as Calvin Church and as individuals. Open our eyes to the ways that we can be your hands and feet, even in the habits of our everyday lives.

Lord you are our Father of compassion and our God of all comfort. So we come before you this morning with our concerns, knowing that you hear us. We lift up those in our congregation and in our community that rest heavy on our minds. Be with those battling illness, specifically those in our congregation who are in the hospital; guide the doctors, give them wisdom and lay your healing hands on them. Almighty Father, we pray for anyone battling addiction. Help them break the chains of addiction and set them free by your forgiveness and love. We pray specifically for those in our congregation experiencing loss today. Lord, hold them in your hands so that they might feel your comfort and presence in this difficult time. Gracious God, be with anyone experiencing broken relationships; speak your love and grace into those situations and help bring about reconciliation.

Heavenly Father, thank you for hearing our prayers, both those said aloud and those in our hearts. We pray this in the name of your son, and our Savior, Jesus Christ, 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