

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession: October 25, 2020

God above all the Universe, we praise you for your loving plan of salvation through the sacrifice of your only son to redeem all your children who confess him as Savior. Smash through our tendency to take your love for granted or to think we deserve it more than some other of your image bearers. Humble us dramatically so that we attempt to reflect your love in meaningful ways to all the world. Teach us to give of ourselves in acts of mercy toward those who are in abusive relationships, struggling emotionally, financially, socially, spiritually, or medically during this time of COVID pandemic. We are thankful for the opportunity that Family Assistance gives us to provide clothes to those who might be close to being naked. We pray for your blessing on efforts to discover and deliver a vaccine very quickly. We thank you for the improvements made in treatment that has slowed the rate of deaths related to this infection and led to the recovery of so many. We ask you to reach down with your hand of mercy and cause the infection rate to slow around the world.

God of peace and unity, we ask that you infect our country with peace and wisdom during this important time of an election. Civil unrest, disrespect, false accusations, exaggerated blaming, and the promotion of racial and class divisions are saturating our culture. Help us to discern your will above all the noise of disharmony that surrounds us. We are thankful that we may rest in your promise to ultimately bring your kingdom to full reality. May our election be orderly, peaceful, and in complete accord with your will for America.

God of power and might, we pray for your church universal throughout the world that praises your name in a multitude of ways, languages, and acts of kindness. Bless your church and empower its influence over evil. We are thankful for this expression of your church called Calvin Church. May our church give action to the wideness of your mercy by embracing every one of your children. Allow us to honestly sing "here as one we claim the faith of Jesus. All Are Welcome in this place."

God of compassion give a listening ear and an open heart to our petitions for our parishioners in need of your spirit of healing and comfort. Stay close to the grieving family and good friends of Elaine Harper and Loren Rupke who have recently joined you in heaven. Bring powerful healing to Bruce Klanderma. Give strength and peace to Bob McBroom. Grant that Dave Dykgraaf's eye may be pain free with vision joyfully restored after surgery. Surround those members whose needs we are not aware of with your powerful presence and give them a sense of peace. Enter the lives of those who have been seriously isolated from family and friends during this pandemic. Give them unfailing hope and uncommon patience to cope with this terrible burden of maddening loneliness.

Now, Lord of our lives, accompany us through this coming week as we seek to serve you and show love to all. Help us to live out the petitions contained in the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray saying:

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.