

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

January 3, 2021

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and lived among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Triune God, we thank you for a new calendar year, the feeling of a fresh start, and for another year of life in which to serve you and to enjoy you and your creation. Thank you for people who love us, for healing of bodies and relationships and minds, for celebrations of people near and far, and for times of quiet and rest.

God, care for those students who are preparing to begin another semester of study. Give them strength and perseverance. Give the same to teachers and all those who work in education in this strange and difficult school year.

Lord God, care for those who work in medicine – we think of those front-line workers who have dealt with so many challenges lately, many of whom are receiving a COVID-19 vaccine now. We pray for the success of the vaccine and for the end of the pandemic. God of mercy, bring healing not only to our bodies but also to our communities, broken by disease and division. Bring healing to our world – we see violence all around, and we long for your peace. Give us trust and hope in the Prince of Peace and gladness at his rule over all the world.

God, protect those in our own community who are living with sickness or who are recovering from surgery or hospitalization. Give healing and strength to Betty Wiersma and Marian Heerema. Guide those who lead our community – give wisdom to our executive committee and Elders as they meet virtually this week. Keep the Family Assistance volunteers and directors safe as they continue with their ministry.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Let us join our voices, together though apart, in the words of the Lord's 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.**