

*The Communion of the Saints: A Remembrance of Members Who Died in 2020*

We give you thanks, O Lord, for all your saints and servants who have lived justly, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For all the high and holy ones, who have done wonders and been shining lights in the world, we give you thanks. For all the meek and lowly ones, who have earnestly sought you in darkness, held fast to their faith in times of trial, and done good as they have had opportunity, we give you thanks. Especially we give thanks for those whom we have known and loved, who, by their patient obedience and self-denial, steadfast hope and helpfulness in trouble, have shown the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

Lester Ippel

Lucile VanWesep Wolthuis

Arthur Bult, Jr.

Dorothy Kelling

Barbara "Bobbie" Talsma

Richard Herrema

Sharon Hecker

Elaine Harper

Loren Rupke

Johanna Christina Dekker

Robert McBroom

Conrad Bult

Each one on our hearts and minds today

As they have comforted and upheld our souls, grant us grace to follow in their steps, and at last to share with them in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession*

Loving God, you created heaven and earth out of nothing. You uphold and rule heaven and earth by your eternal counsel and providence. We give you praise, almighty God. God of eternity, you not only created each of us, but you sustain and form each of us with your Holy Spirit. We worship you, Creator God. You provide whatever we need for body and soul. You guide us and guard us. We trust in you, God, our Maker; Jesus, our Mediator; Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

As we turn toward the promise of a new year, allow us to look back and to look ahead, to see the places in the past where your promises have upheld us, and to look to an unknown future with confidence and trust in you.

As we look back at the last year for our congregation, Lord, we remember your faithfulness, even in a time of great difficulty. We thank you for blessing and strengthening our ministry together and our ministry within our city.

As we look ahead to a new year, we ask for your blessing and strength, Lord God. For all the possibilities ahead in this new year, make us thankful. Give us wisdom, courage, and discernment in the face of so much chaos, despair, and fear. Help us to see how, in our circumstances, we can contribute toward peace, faith, and love. And give us the will to translate our desires into action.

Above all give us trust in your unending love for us and for your world. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.