

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God,
we do not know how to pray,
but Jesus invites us into the life he shares with you,
and so we keep coming, because we want to live.
Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, our desire.

We pray for your church all over the world.
May the life we discover in you
bind us to each other and to the world you love,
for no need is beyond the strength of your call
and no child of yours is expendable.
Merciful God, give us wisdom and courage beyond our imagining.

We pray for each leader who might be an instrument of peace
in a troubled land.
By the movement of your reconciling spirit,
bless your people with the courage to reach past
old wounds and persistent fears.
God of resurrection, bring life where hope has died.

We pray for friends and strangers in the grip of addiction.
Make us able companions for each other,
and bless us with hope that bears fruit.

We pray for unsettled economies
and those whose needs are overlooked in the choices of the powerful.
May we, who know so much privilege,
bear our responsibilities with open eyes and open hands.

We pray for all who stand at the thresholds of life:
your children who are soon to be born,
and your children who are soon to go home.

We give thanks for new faces to love, ideas to ponder, work to do—
and we marvel at the sturdy friendships and persistent memories
that sustain us when the way is hard.
May each be a reminder of your love and your provision.

We thank you for the gift of song—
for notes that speak when words fail,
and choirs that practice at the end of long days.
Give strength to leaders who call forth the best from us
and invite us to breathe together.

Holy One, keep calling us into the world—your world—
as salt and light.
Equip each of us for the challenges we will face
until we learn to worship in the most unlikely places,
for you are the source of our song and the well from which we pray,

wherever we are planted.

By the power of your Spirit, we make our prayer with resurrection hope,
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**