Diocesan Communion under Special Circumstances – November 8, 2020

Prayers of the People

*All churches in the Diocese of Newark are encouraged to consider using these Prayers of the People on Sunday, November 8th, as a sign of unity across the diocese. These prayers may be adapted as desired.*

*Deacon or Leader*

In this time of turbulence and division, we lift up our prayers to God for strength and consolation, saying “Unify the hearts of your people.”

*Leader* O God, even as we find joy in time spent with those we love, we mourn for those whom we have lost to horrible suffering. At the same time that many of us give thanks for this country’s great providence, we also see that many of us continue to live in scarcity. In this time, when we are most in need of unity and reliable leadership, we are met with images of racism, discord, and disdain. Through all the shaking and quaking, Lord, we shift our focus to you; knowing that you are always with us and you are our mightiest leader.

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* As we gather in the wake of our election, help us to quiet our hearts and minds. Help us see past divisions of politics or personal opinion to see that we are all your children and that we are called to offer your love to all our neighbors.

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* We ask that you bless all in public service. For Donald, our President [and for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our president-elect]. For our Senators, Representatives, Justices in the Supreme Court and all others in authority. Help them to govern justly and uphold the dignity of all human beings.

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* We pray for the preservation of the earth and its resources. May we maintain our island home for generations to come. We pray for the people in war-torn countries and strife-torn homes. May all your children come together in peaceful harmony.

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* We pray for all those who have experienced violence, hostility, oppression, or discrimination in the structures of hatred and division in our country. We pray for all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. We pray for all those who are LGBTQIA+. Give them strength and peace-of-mind in this time of struggle. Give white, straight, and cis allies boldness to dismantle structures of injustice alongside their siblings who have been so harmed.

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* Coming together in peaceful coexistence, as did wolf with the lamb, we pray for all people of faith, regardless of culture or tradition. God, we ask for your blessing upon your Church, for our congregations across the diocese, for all our member, for our clergy, for our Bishop, Carlye. Grant that all those who receive Communion this day be united as one body, in Christ our Lord, gathered around his holy table.

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* Divine Creator, we are grateful for all the wonders of this life, even the miracles that go unnoticed. Help us to remember that even the most meager of rocks can become a priceless gem with heat and friction. We give you thanks for all the blessings of our life, including those we now name, silently or aloud.

*Silence*

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* God, our atmosphere feels so uncertain right now, making our day-to-day existence seem unmoored and adrift. We pray for our companions who face their own obstacles in mind, body, or spirit, and for those whose hurts, burdens and fears go unspoken; we pray for all those we now name silently or aloud.

*Silence*

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*Leader* As days turn to weeks, to months, to years, grant us the resilience to adapt to all the changes of this life, including death. And as we face hardship, sadness, and the loss of our loved ones, lift up our hearts as we grieve for the departed. We pray for the repose of the souls of all those we now name, aloud or in our hearts.

*Silence*

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them

Embrace us, O God.

*People* **Unify the hearts of your people.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*