

Prayers of the People

During Time of Racial Unrest and Pandemic

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Carlye, our bishop; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

Silence — Add your prayers silently or aloud

God of love,
Hear our prayers for the Church.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation and for all nations of the world: for peace and justice for all your people; for the crumbling of boundaries that divide us along lines of race, class, color, language, or religion; for our leaders, that they may serve the common good with integrity and goodwill. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively contend with and never make peace with evil, especially the sins of racism and white supremacy. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

Silence — Add your prayers silently or aloud

God of freedom,
Hear our prayers for the world.

God of peace, we pray for our communities: for the local leaders of our towns and cities; for our schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces. For our neighbors and friends and for those we do not see in our midst. Kindle in every heart a yearning for equality, dignity, and opportunity for all. Make our communities places of holy encounters. Grant us the vision and fortitude to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

Silence — Add your prayers silently or aloud

God of peace,
Hear our prayers for this community.

God of mercy: we pray for all in need or trouble, and during this time of pandemic, especially for those who have been affected by the scourge of COVID-19. We pray for all who are or have been sick, for their families and friends, for all who are caring for and treating the sick, and for all who are on the front lines battling this pandemic. We pray for all victims of violence, oppression, and systemic injustice, and for those who have dedicated themselves to creating a more just world for the next generation. Awaken in us true compassion, humility of spirit, and love for all your children, as we seek to serve Christ in all persons.

Silence — Add your prayers silently or aloud

God of mercy,
Hear our prayers for those who are in need.

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: for the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice and peace; for your prophets who have called us to racial healing and reconciliation; for your martyrs who have given their lives for the coming of your Kingdom; for all victims of racial violence and oppression; for all who have lost their lives to the pandemic; and for all your saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim the Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Silence—Add your prayers silently or in your hearts

God of grace,
Hear our prayers for those who have died and gone before us into your presence.

The Prayers may conclude with this or another Collect

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (BCP, 815)