

PRAYER OF APPROACH, CONFESSION, & LORD'S PRAYER

God, our Creator and Parent

our Friend and Redeemer

our Advocate and Comforter,

We turn our hearts and minds and souls to you this day.

You are the force of love that we need in times of pain.

You are the One, both human and divine,

who meets us in our human despair.

You are the peace that moves in and among us

when the chaos of the world becomes too much to bear.

God of mercy, hear our songs and prayers as we worship you today;

ground us in your everlasting love;

mold us into channels of your peace.

Take the chaos of the world that has found its way into our hearts

and shine your light.

Caring Teacher, we confess that, despite what we have learned

in formal schooling, in our churches, in our communities,

we still have so far to go.

We continue to judge one another in small and large ways,

especially when we refuse to reflect within ourselves.

When we don't know what to do or what to say,

we choose to remain silent, rather than speak up alongside

those who are marginalized, racialized, seen as less-than.

We take paths that appear easier because

we don't have time, or

we don't know where to begin, or

we assume our part won't make a difference anyway, or

we are able to fall back on our privilege.

But you show us how, through Christ,

through the cross,

that though we experience times where we feel lost and unsure,

forsaken and abandoned,

in our vulnerability, in our weakness, there is You.

There is a moving, breathing Spirit.

There is new life ready to spring forth.

Forgiving God, take our well-meaning hearts
and open them to being okay with making mistakes.
Through the Spirit,
help us to be better advocates, allies, and supports to our neighbours.
Allow us to accept that we don't know everything.
Instead of turning away or pleading ignorance,
make us curious.
Help us want to know more.
Guide our questions and wonderings so that we might
come to know our siblings in this world all the better.

Take our longings for your goodness to shape
 our lives,
 this community,
 the hurting world
and speak your Word.
Infuse us with your courage and your hope and your love.

Then, awaken us to your Holy Spirit
who is making all things new,
even us.
We pray this in the name of Christ,
who came to earth and lived among us, and who taught us to pray,
saying, Our Father...