

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

We give you thanks, our God, for your presence and purpose in our lives.

We give you thanks, Jesus, for your truthful and compassionate shepherding ways.

We give you thanks, ever-moving Spirit, for your guidance and comfort during these uncertain days.

Compassionate God,

Your love is forever and always. We pray for this love to be poured out on our world. May your love touch all lives and bring peace, bring connection, bring forth relationships and communities that will lift one another up in your great and glorious name.

You love justice and establish peace on earth. We bring before you the disunity of today's world:

Every day we continue to hear news from our world that makes us cringe. We hear stories that make us upset and bewildered. We witness shouted words and snide remarks and turned backs.

But we do not give up, God.

May the joining of voices and acts of compassion, mercy, and justice take hold so that your goodness may shine through. Give strength to those who are fighting valiantly for just, caring, and safe communities, workplaces, and public spaces for all people.

Open our hearts, Lord, to giving and receiving love. Help us accept the need to be vulnerable so that we can break down the walls around us, pull away barriers, and instead build bridges that connect through justice and with love.

Aid us, we pray, in overcoming racism and the ways that it causes us to turn from you.

Grant us your grace in working to diminish, and even eliminate, this blight from our hearts, our communities, our social and civil institutions. We pray for all those who must live in daily fear of what could happen to them, to their children, to the friends and family, only because of the colour of their skin. Open our hearts and minds; give us the courage to take action, to stand with our siblings of all colours to create a more just world.

Suffering Christ,

We continue to pray for this world as we contend with Covid-19. We pray for places where it continues to spread more aggressively; we pray for those who are particularly affected by it due to physical and mental health or economic situation. We pray for those who, throughout all this time, have not stopped working to find a vaccine. And we thank you for those who continue to work on the front lines, bringing us much needed food, healthcare, transportation, and safety.

Finally, O God, we pray for those connected to our own congregation who are in need of prayer:

We continue to pray for Molly Persaud, the sister of Sally. Molly has suffered from violence and abuse, and on top of that, struggles due to health conditions that are not well-treated where she lives in Guyana. May Molly find healing and hope. May Sally find comfort and hope as she worries for the care and well-being of her beloved sister.

Loving God, we pray this day for the Lane family and their extended circle of friends and loved ones as they both celebrate the life of and grieve the death of Dennis Lane. We give you thanks, Heavenly Creator, for the amazing life you brought us in Dennis, and we pray for your comfort as we say goodbye to such a joyful, humble man. Bring peace to those who knew and loved Dennis most.

We also take a moment, O God, in silence, to name before you those precious to us personally, whom we are carrying with us in our hearts at this time.

Send Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family. Strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace; and give us that peace which the world cannot give.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.