

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

You have created us, O God, to enjoy and to rejoice in your creation. Thank you. You have created us with a capacity for communion with other life and a communion with the ground of being whom we name 'God.' What other names do we have, for you, O God as you reveal yourself to us and speak to us in our darkest moments and critical times of need? Do we cry up to you, call on you, open our souls to you, cultivate an inner listening for your voice, and a heart to feel your energy flow through us opening us up to faith, hope and love in ever new and expanding ways?

Come to us and flow in and through us as we take a moment in silence to breathe in and out... We feel you through our gratitude and hope, our tears and concerns, our outrage for justice and our compassion for all who struggle and suffer...

We live in a world that is flattened, O God... the sacred is just a word, not a conviction and a living sense we have of a whole realm of being underneath and beyond our mere sense of taste, smell, touch, hearing and seeing... In fact, how much more enriching and transforming our seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting may become when we cultivate a more vivid feeling for the invisible and sacred reality all around us of which you are the ground, O God... Feed us your presence...

In this spirit of vivid and personal feel for your presence, we pray for the world around us, O God...

On this National Indigenous Peoples Day that is today, we name the indigenous peoples of this territory we call Canada in our pastoral concerns, as they, too, have suffered the kind of racism that has become abusive and destructive, and when seen through the policies of the past hundreds of years, as genocidal... Have mercy, O God, and provoke a fire in us for change that will not go out until we are satisfied some real change is happening...

We continue to pray for black lives matter and for those lives, in particular, who are especially vulnerable to abuse and neglect, be it because of the colour of their skin, their age, their gender, their sexuality, their religious expression and clothing... Why must fear block our openness to difference and communion, O God? Have mercy on us and provoke a fire in us for change that will not go out until we are satisfied some real change is happening...

We continue to pray for all those on the front lines of the pandemic in hospitals and care homes, in grocery stores and other essential service provision... We continue to pray for those whose future employment or business is uncertain, whose mental health and physical

health is vulnerable, whose stress and overwork under stressful conditions is at the breaking point... those who feel unsafe at work or at home...

Finally, we take a moment, O God, to name before you those persons or situations that we are carrying more personally at this time in our concern, our worry our perplexity...

Give us grace and courage, O God... may your healing energy flow through... May peace and gratitude flood hearts... and may hope for what may yet come to be sustain us in our time now and empower us to keep advocating and working for change... We pray this way in Jesus' name; Amen.