

# PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Awesome God, life-giving God, ground of being who surrounds and interpenetrates all life on this planet... We seek your movement and flow in and through us ever more fully... When we experience love flooding our hearts, we know your movement and flow, O God... thank you. When we experience the conviction and call of our conscience, we know your movement and flow, O God... Thank you... When we experience outrage at injustice leading us to get more engaged and focussed rather than enraged and hateful, we know your movement and flow, O God... Thank you... When we are filled with gratitude, with peace in letting go, with a sense of responsibility in our care for others, with forgiveness in our hearts and with an inner desire to reach out to others, we know your movement and flow, O God... Thank you...

Come to us and fill us anew as we take a moment in silence right now to breathe in and breathe out and to experience your movement and flow in every breathe...

We also pray for our world, O God, of which we are a part... May your movement and flow of breaking down the walls and building bridges be ever more visible and real, O God, as we witness and participate in anti-black and anti-indigenous racism protests, events and engagement... May your movement and flow open our hearts and our lives toward ever greater inclusion of those who are different than we are, whatever our sexuality or gender identity... Are we part of those who have experienced marginalization and oppression or part of a society where we have participated in such marginalization and oppression by our complicity, ignorance, silence, or indifference?

Awaken us, O God... Convict us, O God... Forgive us, O God... and may we expand our friendship as we continue to build bridges of inclusion in our personal lives and our communities...

We continue to pray for all those struggling in this time of Covid-19, O God... Even as we are experimenting with easing of restrictions, we are fearful of new breakouts and second waves, O God... We are especially concerned about those most vulnerable, and for families where loved ones cannot be touched or hugged, O God... We need human connection in an embodied way, O God... You created us for this... Help us as we persevere a little longer and continue to find creative ways to engage one another by sharing our love...

Finally, we take a moment in silence to name before you all those we are carrying very personally in our hearts at this time...

There are many reasons we carry people in our hearts, O God... there are situations and circumstances... there is crisis in body, in mind and in soul... there are needs that are overwhelming and leave us feeling inadequate even as we also carry responsibility...

May your movement and flow be experienced as healing, as blessing, as growth and new life, as peace, O God... and we make this our prayer in Jesus' name... Amen.