

# PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Thank you, O God... The world is a rich place of wonder, beauty, mystery and goodness. Love is given and love is shared... In times of trouble here and throughout the world there are professionals and volunteers who serve and give not because it's their job but more profoundly because their heart calls them to serve and give... For those who are there for us in our times of trouble... For those who are there for us when we need guidance, direction, encouragement, companionship... For all the many ways we are sustained on this earth... for the ways we are drawn to laugh and sing, enjoy and rejoice... We thank you, O God...

Hear us now as we take a moment to name those things for which we are particularly thankful in the silence...

As thankful people, O God, we also open our hearts to those who struggle to find a reason to be thankful...

We continue to pray about police brutality and systemic racism throughout the world and in our own nation and communities, O God... As incident after incident is reported and recorded, may our outrage lead to genuine change, and may all those who serve in positions of authority become engaged in their own liberation from the systems of oppression they and we are all a part of. May we not resist the hard, long-term work necessary so that change is not momentary, but structural, personal and real...

We continue to pray about protests in Hong Kong and for all those in communities and nations of the world where they feel marginalized and oppressed and merely seek a just society with governments elected by the people and accountable to the people...

We continue to pray for places in the world, like the U.S., Brazil and elsewhere, where a health virus ravaging so many, beginning with the most vulnerable is made worse by the political, racial and social virus of us versus them rather than the greater cooperation of health authorities, governments and individual citizens to work together toward health as a collective body...

We pray about all these troubles, O God, not because we want to get depressed, but because we want to open up space for faith and hope and love... and because we want to be part of the redemption of the world even in small ways here and there... Make us your servants of blessing to this world and feed us with the faith, hope and love we need for the journey...

Finally, we make some special prayer requests, O God... For Shannon McKinnon and for his family – Carinel, Jack, Connor and Victoria, newer members of Armour Heights... Shannon is a young father diagnosed with stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer...

We also take a moment to name before you, O God, those persons and situations we are carrying extra personally and heavily at this time...

We pray for healing, however powerfully and diversely healing may happen... We pray for new life and growth and flourishing... and we pray for a greater experience of inner peace... And we make this our prayer in Jesus' name... Amen.