

PRAYER OF APPROACH, CONFESSION, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of the Neighbourhood,
In your triune being, you are God in and of community,
One of divine and perfect love, inspiring and empowering the whole neighbourhood of creation.

God in community, who calls us into community,
For the beauty of the whole neighbourhood we thank you,
For the birds that chirp in the trees, flutter to the feeder, and wash at the bird bath,
For the squirrels that scurry across the yard in what looks like an elaborate game of tag,
For the dogs and their owners that we take joy in seeing walk by the window or encounter on our walks,
For the sidewalk chalk drawings and the laughter of children,
For the smells of the BBQ and freshly cut grass,
For trees full of leaves and the bursting colours of summer flowers,
For all that reminds us of the joy of summertime,
For the beautiful days in our neighbourhood, we thank you.

We confess that we are not always loving in our care for the neighbourhood,
Taking more than we need, using more than we should, polluting the land, the air and the water.

We confess that we are not always loving in our care for the creatures in our neighbourhood,
Often we are mindless when considering how our actions impact other creatures,
In our deciding that some creatures are good and other are pests, choices are made by us that too often do not think of the ecosystem as a whole, or honour the whole of your creation.

We confess that we are not always loving in our care for our neighbours,
Finding it easy to love the neighbours in which we find commonality, we look for exceptions or loopholes to not have to love those whose differences offend us.
Help us to love our neighbours - whether they pray like us, look like us, vote like us, or love like us,
Help us to love our neighbours, as freely, unconditionally, and extravagantly as you love us,
In the name of him who taught us how to be a neighbour and taught us to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever...

Assurance: God calls you beloved children, calling you into relationship and community, loving you wholeheartedly. God's neighbourhood needs you.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

The Peace of Christ be with you ...

Let us take a moment to receive that peace and reflect on the ways we can share it, wholeheartedly, with the world God so loves.