

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Lord God—we thank you for our fellowship, a gift to share and to extend beyond any boundaries of race and sex and colour and border, for if we are indeed in Christ, there is no longer black, brown or white—male, female or intersex, for we are each and all children of our One Creator whose love knows no partiality and knows no bounds.

We thank you for our families and our responsibilities toward each other, and for the bond between youth and age, for our communities though physically distant yet bound together, in which we discipline each other in our mutual tasks. We thank you for the restrictions which have reminded us that there are indeed limits to our wants and desires.

And now we pray: come, Holy Spirit. Empower us. Show us the way. Lead us out of this time of uncertainty, anxiety, and fear. Be with us as we worship. Bind us in fellowship. Move us to advocate, to cry with those who cry and to rejoice with those who rejoice. Move us forward in our sense of call as followers of the One who stood with the poor, outcast, and brokenhearted. May our prayer be our action. Give us peace with justice in this time of waiting for what will be. In the name of the One, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.