

# PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

O God, we are in awe of your grace – creative enough  
To raise up in every generation, and in our midst,  
Witnesses to take up the torch of your passion and purposes to lead this human family of yours and ours on  
our common exodus to justice.

Strengthen us to confront the reality of violence in our world.  
The violence caused by racism, misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia.  
Help us to stand up for the marginalized.

Strengthen us to confront the reality of abuse and exploitation, to recognize The Church's participation in  
these abuses and to continue to seek reconciliation.

Strengthen us to confront the reality of gaslighting and misinformation, spouted by world leaders hoping to  
gain popularity or spread about on social media.  
Help us to be truth seekers and truth tellers.

Strengthen us to confront the realities of the ways “we have always done it,” and to acknowledge that those  
ways may have been hurtful, exclusionary and insufficient.  
Help us to hear your voice as we imagine new ways forward.

Strengthen us to confront the reality of the fear and anxiety we feel as September comes upon us and  
schools reopen.  
We pray for teachers, for students, and for parents.  
Help us to support one another.

Strengthen to confront the reality that this pandemic is not yet over, regardless of how tired and frustrated  
and lonely and scared we all are,  
Or how much we worry about finances and the economy.  
Help us to be assured of your presence and your peace.

Strengthen us to confront our questions,  
Help us to have faith that you will lead us into the answers.

We pray in the name of him who's peace passes all understanding,  
Amen.