

## **1 August 2024**

Faithful G\*d, we bless and glorify You. Forgive us for the ways we deny Your spark within us. Thank You for the promise that nothing can separate us from Your love. When adversaries tear us down because of how we look, how we dress, how we identify, or those in whom we find sacred, mutual, and consensual companionship, remind us that You have plans: “to prosper [us] and not to harm [us], plans to give [us] hope and a future.” Let Your love shine through the ways we live with dignity and fight so that others can do likewise. Amen.

## **2 August 2024**

Mighty G\*d, whose everlasting and unconditional love lifts us up when we are down: Thank You for the power of this love for all. We repent for the times we have been too afraid of ourselves and others to love as You love. Remind us that “fear is stupid.” Endow us with a fresh unction of courage – and strengthen us with clarity and determination as we follow Your map for our lives in community with others. Give us joy and the rewards of righteousness as we walk in the light of Your truths and invite others to do likewise. Amen.

## **3 August 2024**

Gracious G\*d, You are a friend like none other. When we feel forsaken, You find us. You welcome us. You are one of a kind. We are grateful. Forgive us for times when You inspired us to go forward, but we stood still. Forgive us for times You urged us to be still, but we went forward. Teach us to dance in sync and in time with You. Keep us in the rhythm of Your Spirit. Set us in time with companions attuned to You. Make us friends to others as You have been a friend to us. Amen.

## **4 August 2024**

Healing G\*d, whose touch makes us whole, whose word restores our souls, we approach You with a heart to worship and a will to be all You have created us to be. You know the ways that we have been broken – and how hard it is piece ourselves back together again. Thank You for the bishops, presiding elders, pastors, lay and missionary component leaders at every level, church mothers and fathers, church sisters and brothers whose deeds, words, thoughts, and prayers have been a balm to our being – and an affirmation of our existence. Quicken us for Your work. Amen.

## **5 August 2024**

Everlasting G\*d, who was, is, and will be: thank You that *our* time is in Your hands. You know what we have endured in silence; You know what we have suffered in public. Thank You that we are *here* today. Thank You for mentors, friends, teachers, and parents courageous and compassionate enough to love and embrace us as they prayed for wisdom and guidance. Have mercy on the souls – and blessings be upon the memories – of children whose earthly lives have been lost to the emotional, psychological, physical, and spiritual tortures of death-dealing violence. Keep us strong and clear. Amen.

## **6 August 2024**

G\*d of here, there, and everywhere, thank You for meeting us wherever we are – lesbian, gay, transgender, blackqueer, and quare. You meet us in Africa and Asia, in North America and South America, in the Caribbean and Europe; You meet us in the Pacific and in the Middle East. Yet, our lives are at risk wherever everyday people are celebrated for harming us and states are sanctioned to imprison or even kill us. Convict, persuade, and disarm our foes; endow us with sanctified and sanctifying armor – and we will stand in the power of Your love and our dignity. Amen.

#### **7 August 2024**

True true G\*d, thank You for the ways You free us from patterns of deceit. Give us discernment, that our souls hear and respect differences between silences of discretion, privilege, fear, and caution. Forgive us for ways our hiding – or exposing – has caused others harm. Regarding sex, gender, and sexuality: show us how to support those who cannot give voice, those who choose not to give voice, those forced to give voice, and those who have chosen to give voice. Build a world through us where safety, opportunities, acceptance, and inclusion are not the prices for voicing quare truths. Amen.

#### **8 August 2024**

Holy G\*d, focus us on Your presence when we doubt that our calls for justice will be heard and answered faithfully. When stereotypes pierce us like arrows because of who and how we love, be our balm. Convict and silence those who mock winding paths toward intimate relationship, childlessness, frumpiness, and fastidiousness – unaware of exactly how people come to be. Challenge those who equate difference with unholy deviance – and thoughtlessly assert the sameness of all deviations from the norm. Forgive us when dignity damaging attacks distract us and mute our cause. In our integrity, we keep watching for You. Amen.

#### **9 August 2024**

Ancient of Days, we honor the ancestors who keep teaching us to yield to our gifts. We thank You for those who taught us through their love, discernment, and courage. Glory to You for those who saw themselves and us with eyes like Yours. Forgive us when we ignore the wisdom our elders – and those gone on – so freely poured into us. Thank You that You and Your heavenly host minister to us, free of obsessions with the details of our gender and sexuality. Allow Your saints, angels, and our forebears to continue keeping watch with You over *us*. Amen.

#### **10 August 2024**

G\*d, our mother hen, thank You for gathering us for Your purpose – including our collective joy. Forgive us when we deny sex diversities – especially the existence of intersex people – due to limits of our imaginations and the dominance of cultural norms. Protect and sustain the gifts of those drawn from the womb with “male” *and* “female” anatomy; endow parents of intersex children with discernment, integrity, and courage. Stop us from forcing misfit categories. Prevent the boundaries of our understanding from determining the boundaries of our love. As a family, help us to see and celebrate intersex people among us. Amen.

#### **11 August 2024**

Creator G\*d *before* the cosmos: You gathered stardust, endowed it with the fiercest design, molded it into all kinds of shapes and sizes, and breathed the creative breath of life into us. We, Your creation and creatives thank You for the wonders of Your works. For every song You give, every idea You spark, every poem You inspire, every word You speak, and every image You usher forth through our minds, bodies, and souls: thank You! We cancel the plots of those who resent our quare eccentricities and lean into the power and promise of Your wildest dreams for us.

### **12 August 2024**

G\*d of our mothers: thank You for making Blackwomen who love Blackwomen sexually and nonsexually. Help us to see, name, and dismantle the distinctive everydayness of prejudice against, hatred toward, and aversion to women of African descent. Forgive us for any ways we participate in or promote cultures that denigrate any women. Strengthen bonds of love and affection between Blackwomen – bonds that are healing balms, tinder of liberation, waters of wellness, roots of resistance and resilience, and the foundations of flourishing homes. Inspire love of, respect for, and appreciation for women of African descent in all people. Amen.

### **13 August 2024**

G\*d of our fathers: thank You for making Blackmen who love Blackmen sexually and nonsexually. We bind and rebuke evil powers marking Blackmen for destruction, ridicule, capture, or exploitation. Thank You for the ways men of African descent combat fear, creatively disassemble architectures and architects of oppression, and defy cultural pressures to self-destruct. Forgive and inhibit envy of our oppressors, toxic masculinities, and promotions of male supremacy. May every seed of love and affection sown between Blackmen come to life as confidence, humility, caring gentleness, compassionate strength, vision, wisdom, freedom, justice, and health within all people for all people. Amen.

### **14 August 2024**

G\*d of Hagar and Moses: focus us on the oppressed. Forgive us when we prioritize addressing the injustices *we* face at the expense of alleviating the sufferings of others – and all. A generation of children is being massacred in Palestinian territories; populations are languishing and migrating for their survival under pressures of climate change and political abuses; around the world, people lack food, clothing, shelter, care, freedom, and love: show us how it matters that the count of those impacted always includes quare people – and elicit our most faithful responses. Make us trustworthy coalition builders and conspirators for justice. Amen.

### **15 August 2024**

G\*d of our mothers and fathers, thank You for making Blackpeople who love Blackpeople sexually and nonsexually – irrespective of sex or gender. We honor people of African descent for whom anatomy does not definitively determine sexual attraction. Forgive us for assuming – or acting like – such standards of attraction are inherently promiscuous, polyamorous, unfaithful, or dishonest. Draw us into intimate relationships according to a call of Your spirit and complementarities of purpose and

vocation. Help us see, celebrate, and embody dynamic approaches to fidelity, commitment, and love that model integrity consistent with Your will – prospering Blackpeople and all people. Amen.

#### **16 August 2024**

G\*d, our transformer in whom there is no shadow of turning: You draw us into a dynamic dance of life. Thank You for making people whose biological sex ascribed at birth does not fit. We acknowledge the unique terror and danger of living this truth. Lead and guide; assure and protect. Teach us a holy patience with ourselves and others as we learn and relearn the pronouns, names, identities, and roles You reveal as ours. Open our ears, hearts, and minds to receive living testimonies and sacred witnesses of our Blacktransgender siblings. May love shepherd all our transitions. Amen.

#### **17 August 2024**

Great G\*d, You emerge out from the smog of everyday life. At times we have been put out, rejected, denied, refused, ignored, and cast out. Yet, You show up declaring that we belong to You. Some of us have been ridiculed and discriminated against because of who *You* have shown us that we are. Protect us when the misunderstandings others have about us turn hateful and harmful. Forgive us for allowing bitterness and resentment to fester from our hurt – and cleanse us. Raise *us* up so that we can share You, our air mask, with others who are suffocating. Amen.

#### **18 August 2024**

G\*d, the Word made flesh and dwelling among us, speak to our hearts. Forgive and transform those who use the Bible as a weapon to say You do not love us, You do not love what we do, You do not love who we are, You do not love who we love, and we deserve to die. Forgive *us* for believing these same lies or even preaching them – and heal us of our hypocrisy. Teach us how You would have us read and understand You through the revealed word. Let our loving witness and knowledgeable testimony bless others. Amen.

#### **19 August 2024**

Embodied G\*d: Thank you for all Your parts. We bless You for the ways we are Your parts – which You bind together and call the Church. We have been broken and separated from the wholeness we can only enjoy in You. Forgive us for the ways we have neglected one another and driven one another away from You and from holy fellowship – whether because of our bias or because we decided Your Church was not worth the fight. Give Your body – and all Your square and straight parts – what we need to stick together. Help us abide in love. Amen.

#### **20 August 2024**

Spirit of the Living G\*d: empty us of our sin, deliver us from evil, and fill us with Your presence. Your kingdom come; Your will be done. Fill Church mothers and fathers with sweetness, wisdom, patience, and openness. Fill Church kids with excitement, creativity, and joy. Fill Church siblings with a collaborative spirit. Teach us how to differ without being divisive or denigrating. Teach us how to listen to one another and talk reasonably together. When we have conversations on gender

and sexuality, let us engage with empathy, honesty, and humility. Help us hear from You and be made whole. Amen.

### **21 August 2024**

G\*d, our provider: We need You now. Settle us. Focus us on Your agenda. Receive our worship, praise, and thanks for the ways You have already delivered us. May Your justice now flow down like waters and Your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream as we present ourselves and our convictions before You and before one another. The planet is groaning – and governments continue capitalizing on suffering and inequity. We cannot afford purposeless paralysis. Reactivate Your Church for Your holy causes. “Revive us again. Fill our hearts with Your love. Let our souls be rekindled with fire from above.” Hallelujah. Amen.