

Prayers of the People

During this prayer, I will say, "Risen Lord, in your mercy." And you will respond by saying, "Hear our prayer." Join me now in the prayers of the people...

God of righteousness and justice, you have called us all to love our neighbors and to engage in the work of justice on behalf of the least among us. In so doing you invite us to always be mindful of the needs of those around us and so we offer these prayers on behalf of our community here in Wake County, in North Carolina, and around the world.

Gracious God of all creation we pray for today for the environment in which we live. Help us to be wise and obedient stewards of the earth that you have entrusted to us. Teach us to live in harmony with all your creatures and to be responsible in all our habits and practices, so that we will not you're your creation. Give us the wisdom repair whatever harm we may have done and change the way we live going forward so that all life may flourish and so that future generations may share in the abundance of the earth.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

God of compassion we pray for the weak, the poor, and the vulnerable among us who are the most adversely affected by the policies that we make as a state. Protect them with your power and send us forth as your people not only to care for them, but also to advocate on their behalf.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

God of knowledge and wisdom we pray today for our public school children and their teachers. Do not allow the education of our children to become commodified and privatized or for our teachers to be inadequately compensated, mistreated, or disrespected. Help us to work together to protect, to encourage, and to empower our teachers so that we can afford every child in our state a safe, strong, and fair education.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

O Lord you were once called the Great Physician, and so we pray to you for those who are physically and the mentally ill among us. We pray that all people might have access to safe and affordable health care options and that you would bring your healing and grace to those who are suffering.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

God of the Sabbath, you created the world with a natural rhythm of work and rest and we pray for all those who work and labor among us that they would be treated with dignity, given fair wages for their work, and offered the opportunity to find rest and Sabbath in the midst of their labors.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

O Lord we know that you are a God who loves all people and includes all people in your community regardless of their sexuality or gender identity. We pray for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer brothers and sisters that their rights might be protected and that they may be shown love.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Great, and mighty, and awesome God we know that you love the strangers and foreigners among us. You teach us that as your people we should also love the immigrants among us because we were all foreigners and strangers once in the land of Egypt. Help us to advocate for the rights and the dignity of our immigrant brothers and sisters more passionately.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Lord you have told us that by visiting those in prison we are visiting you and so we pray for those who have been captured by the system of incarceration in our nation today. We pray that this system will be reformed and that those in prison today might find a new future in your mercy and grace.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Finally, Lord we pray for the protection of the voting rights of all people in our state. There is nothing just about a government that does not allow the people it serves to participate in the process of electing their officials. Lord, we pray that all people in our state will have equal ability to cast their votes freely in whatever way that they choose and that you will remove all impediments from their ability to exercise their rights.

Risen Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

God of righteousness and justice you have called us through the prophet Jeremiah to seek the peace of the city no matter what Babylon we find ourselves living in. Today we find ourselves living as your people in the State of North Carolina, and so we must seek the peace of this place and all who live and labor with us here. Lord we know that you are not be pleased with

those who cry, “peace, peace” when there is no peace. So we long, as the Psalmist prayed, for the day when justice and peace will kiss. We long for the day when the body of Christ will be united as one in heart, and soul, and mind. We long for the day when we will return to the vision of beloved community we see in the book of Acts. We long for the day when no one will claim private ownership of any possession and where we will hold all things in common. We long for the day when our resources will be redistributed to each as they have need. We long for the day when there will be no needy among us. But until that day, Lord, we ask that you give us the strength, the patience, the courage, and the hope to work together to make this Babylon that we live in more like your kingdom.

And so, Lord, we pray the prayer that you taught us to pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.