

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession
January 31, 2021

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we praise you. You are wonderful – you are wonderful in the ways that we know you – we know that you are strong, gentle, creative, loving, righteous, perfect, and kind. And you are wonderful in the ways that we do not know you, or at least do not fully understand you – even what is mysterious about you is wonderful to us, because we know that you are greater than we can imagine, more loving than we can comprehend, more perfect than we can realize. Praise to you, God Almighty, creator, redeemer, sustainer, our Lord and the God of the universe.

Great God, thank you. Thank you for your creation – for the sun, moon, and stars, for the northern lights, for the frozen lakes, for the snowy hills, for our sense of smell, for our sense of taste, for bodies and food and creative minds made in your image. Thank you for your redemption – for a Savior who cares for us like a good Shepherd, for a great sacrifice made to draw us back to yourself, for the cross and the empty tomb and our ascended Lord Jesus. Thank you for your sustaining comfort and power, for the presence of your Holy Spirit giving us faith to pray to you in the first place and calling us together to be your people in this world.

Loving God, we bring before you our anxieties and our concerns, trusting that you hear us, that you care, and that you have power in this world. Care for the people we love. Keep them safe. Guide them to follow you and to find joy in serving you in this world. God, sometimes their love for you is not evident to us. Continue to call them to yourself by your persistent love, the same love that is at work in our own hearts to call us back to you again every day. Comfort us, too, by the same Holy Spirit who is working in mysterious ways in the lives of each person.

Good Shepherd, care for those in our community who are in need of your loving care. Bring healing and recovery to Jim F, Anjean S, and Ross W. Give comfort to the family and friends of Lorraine Warlick after her death last weekend. Lord, we know that you created Lorraine in love and called her as your child; give us hope now in our time of loss as we acknowledge that she is yours forever. Give success to the new hemophilia treatment for David H, and thank you for these encouraging medical developments for him and his family.

In a time of political division, Lord, give us wisdom in our discourse with one another, within our families, within the church, and with the church's public witness to the world. Lord, as a church we repent for caring more for power than we do for the message of your kingdom, a kingdom in which the poor in spirit are blessed, the meek will inherit the earth, and those who are persecuted will be rewarded. Humble us to seek your kingdom, and give us clarity about how to follow you in the world today.

Jesus, we trust that you hear us and that you intercede for us at the throne of God. We unite our voices with Christians around the world in the prayer you taught your disciples: Our Father...