



## ROOTED IN PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE

Peacemaking rooted in prayer and Scripture begins not with anger, but with a desire to align our hearts with God's will. Prayer centers us, reminding us that our struggle is not against people or systems, but against injustice that contradicts God's will. Scripture grounds our actions in truth, love, and humility, shaping our voices so they reflect Christ rather than a culture of outrage. When protest flows from prayer, it becomes more than public resistance. It is faithful witness, seeking transformation not only of laws and structures, but of hearts, including our own.

The prayers and scripture below are an offering to help you root yourself in God's call to care for all people. As you prepare for any act of peacemaking, we encourage you to begin and end with prayer, and to allow God's word to guide you in this important work.

### PRAYERS

#### FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### FOR OUR ENEMIES

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **IN TIMES OF CONFLICT**

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **FOR THE OPPRESSED**

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **FOR THOSE WHO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION**

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

## **FOR REFUGEES**

*Shared by the Refugee Community Center at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator (Allentown), Diocese of Bethlehem*

God our Creator: We ask for your loving presence and for your peace to be with refugees in our local communities and around the world. Be with all who are in fear. Be with those whose lives and livelihoods are under threat, and whose religious freedoms are being compromised. Be with us as we strive to enact your will in our welcome and support of refugees. Be with those in positions of leadership, that their decisions may bend toward peace and not division, and that they might realize the power they hold to do justice. Give us all strength and courage. Equip and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and bearers of hope, especially for those seeking refuge. In your Holy name we pray. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **MICAH 6:8**

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

### **MATTHEW 5:3-10**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **MATTHEW 22:36-40**

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

### **MATTHEW 25:34-40**

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

### **LUKE 1:46-55 - THE MAGNIFICAT**

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **PSALM 9:9-10**

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.  
And those who know your name put their trust in you,  
for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

### **ISAIAH 43:1b-3a**

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

## **A GOD SIGHTING EXAMEN FOR THE END OF THE DAY**

### **Prepare**

Take a few moments for stillness. Recall that God has accompanied you every step of the way during the day. Open yourself to God's presence.

### **Consider**

For what moment today am I the most grateful?  
What has challenged me today that I need to put down?  
Where did I encounter God's presence?

### **Ask**

Because we are human, sometimes we make mistakes. We say and do things that hurt others. We say and do things that hurt us, too. Ask for forgiveness for any failings you recognize. Give God anything that feels heavy.

### **Give Thanks**

Say thank you for God's abiding love.

### **Close**

God of mercy and goodness, throughout the ages you have made known your love and power in unexpected ways and places: Guide us as we advocate for the most vulnerable, bless us with courage and perseverance, and strengthen us in your goodness so that we may daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence. Amen.