

Sunday Prayers 9.29.2024

God of Creation, Hurricane Helene is filling the news. The devastation is massive. The damage to lives and properties...and the future is alarming. Be with all who are engaged in the recovery process. Bring health and healing to all who have been injured. Bring consolation for the massive losses people are grieving. We are continuing to study and learn about the world and how it works —and what we need to do to secure safe living on our planet for generations to come. Help us care about this. Help us learn and integrate what we are learning through changed living. Help us see a way to mitigate the intensity of weather cycles as we live into the future. . Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, the Gospel for this week is filled with lots of things to think about in relation to the whole of the Gospel story. The last line is 'be at peace with one another'. Not a false peace where people do not speak about the truth of their realities in order to prevent dis-ease, but real peace...where needs are met, and health and wellness are realities in each human all the way to the depth of their bones. Food, shelter, clean water, clean air, purpose, meaning, value, respect... are core elements of peace. Help us work for this...for ourselves and each other. The whole world...and everyone in it...needs this. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Healing, No matter who we are, at some point we need healing. So, wherever we are on the human continuum of health and well being right now, please bring whatever healing is needed within us, within all whom we love, and within all whom most need your healing power. You are the healer of all ills...in us and out in the world we move in daily. We need your healing mercy. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Truth, we look at the political arena and ponder the state of the world. What will the next few months bring in our country? Help us forward. Help us imagine a future of your making. Your Gospel is Good News. Your new commandment tells us to love one another as you have loved us—every one of us...and all the others of our country. Help us in the midst of so much concern for our nation's future to faithfully discern how to vote with our voices grounded in your love. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Mercy, we look in the mirror when we brush our teeth...or wash our faces at the end of each day. Do we see what you see? Do we see that you have created us? That you have made us into flesh and blood realities capable of loving ourselves, our family, our friends, our world? Do we see our eyes...and our lips...and the grandness of our smile? Or do we see flaws and look for the wrinkles? Help us see ourselves in the way you see us. Help us know the power

of love within us...and around us. Help us be your love in the world in generous, life giving ways. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, Gracious Lord, we commend all for whom we pray...and everything else we pray through sighs too deep for words. Amen.