

Prayer of the Church – 10.17.21– Pentecost 21

Leader – Pastor James (Outdoor) & Kirsten Bates (Indoor)

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

Holy One, for the gift of the church handed down through the ages and for all who carry on the servant ministry of Jesus, we praise you. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who are discerning calls to ministry in its many forms and equip them with your gifts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating One, for the lush and abundant habitat you provide for all your creatures, we praise you. Provide healing for the earth so that waterfowl, reptiles, wild horses, dolphins, and all living things flourish as you intend.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Suffering One, for all who work toward peace and who lead nations with a servant's heart, we praise you. Bring justice for all who suffer violence, persecution, discrimination, violence, hunger, poverty, and homelessness, and create places of refuge for all people. Sustain first responders to help meet the complicated needs of many. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Keep safe all who work to defend, safeguard, and promote the common good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Scott, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Alex, Carson, Jackson, and Erica.**

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of ventures, anoint us with the missionary passion of the apostles. Bless our missionaries: **Megan, Mark, Krista, and Joel in Africa, Gustavo and Ruth in Puerto Rico, Bethania Kids in India, Jon and Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Braille Workers worldwide, and the many other missionaries** and relief workers we support financially and prayerfully.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful One, for all who do the work of healing in mind, body, and spirit, we praise you. Surround and comfort all who struggle with depression, anxiety, cancer, diabetes, dementia, or any illness, **especially our own Lesley, Donna, Michael, Alison, Lisa, Lilli, Jim, Donna, Pastor Eric Peterson, Pastor Ralph Wiechmann, Pastor Bill Flammann, Bob, Carolee, Ruth, Matt, Nemeh, Fabiana, Noor, Caroline, June, Toby, and Diane as well as our friends and family requesting our prayers**, that all may be healed. Keep our children safe at school and in their pods, neighborhoods, and communities, especially during the pandemic. Surround them with your unwavering presence, protection, and friendship. We also pray for the ministry of our preschool and ask for your discernment in the identification of a new director.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining One, for all who volunteer for the vitality of this congregation, we praise you. Strengthen and encourage greeters, ushers, office volunteers, bakers, counters, committee and group leaders, teachers, students, evangelists, singers, builders, nurturers, and all who serve with generous hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith as we give thanks for our virtual, livestream, and podcast ministries, which are able to transcend physical distances, allowing us to connect with anyone, anywhere, at anytime. Sustain **caregivers** with energy and patience. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace *especially Ann Johns (David Johns's mother)*. Envelop them and us in your love, that with all your saints, we may be reunited with one another in the last days.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Natalie, Eric, Matthew, Heather, Ellen, Myles, Susan, Caroline, Rob, Stacey, Max, Ted, and Randy**. May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal the Holy Spirit's love, life, and light, even in the midst of disease, destruction, and despair.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **Amen.**