

Weekly Prayers

Public Policy and Witness Division



October 3, 2025

We invite you to join us as we share new prayers each week for the vulnerable among us facing challenges, fears, and threats. We will name many of the harms unfolding around us and acknowledge what is being erased, lost, and threatened.

FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Gracious God, whose steadfast love never ceases, we grieve the harm of political impasse and the suffering it brings. We lift before you the workers and families facing lost income and employment, and those who depend on public services for health, safety, and justice. Grant wisdom and humility to leaders and guide them toward compromise for the common good. Strengthen public servants and sustain communities that carry extra burdens. Provide for the vulnerable and turn crisis into an opportunity for fellowship. You are the Lord over all—even governments and budgets. Through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and hope. Amen.

FOR THE SAFETY OF WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

God of peace, you call your people to beat swords into ploughshares. This past week, we have seen assaults on houses of worship from Michigan to London. We grieve the lives lost, and we pray for all who fear entering their place of devotion. Guard all communities gathered for prayer. Bring healing to the wounded, consolation to the grieving, and courage to those who seek your presence in faith. Strengthen leaders and neighbors who work for reconciliation and mutual care, so that hatred may give way to understanding. Uphold your church and all who worship you, that together we may bear witness to your steadfast love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, whose last words on the cross exemplified your profound love and compassion. Amen.

FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST FUTURE FOR GAZA

God of mercy whose compassion never fails, we know that where there is despair you bring restoration, and where there is violence, you bring peace. As war rages in Gaza and ceasefire talks unfold, let negotiations be guided not by power but by the resolve to protect life and dignity. Guard the children, the elderly, the wounded, and the bereaved. May hostages be freed, promises kept, and leaders act with integrity. Let any ceasefire become more than a pause in violence—let it be a path to lasting peace, safety, and justice for all who dwell in that land. May your Spirit guide the talks to prioritize the lives of those who suffer and secure a future of hope for them. We pray through Jesus Christ, who binds up wounds and makes peace. Amen.

FOR SPEECH GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT

God of wisdom and truth, you give us the gift of speech to bless and to build. Freedom of speech, along with freedom of association and self-determination, are also foundational for religious independence and tolerance for all. We grieve when political pressure seeks to silence voices. Guard us from fear that stifles honest expression, and from speech that wounds needlessly. Teach us to speak and act with compassion, not in retribution; to listen with patience; and to discern wisely when words are meant to harm. Strengthen leaders to uphold freedom of speech with justice and mercy and guide your church to witness to truth spoken in love. Through Jesus Christ, your Living Word, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.