

Prayers for the World

1. Read Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

2. Spend a few moments in silent prayer, turning your heart to places in the world where there is suffering

3. Put a sticker on those places (it is ok if there are multiple stickers in the same place)

4. Write out a prayer for that place on a sticky note and leave it on the table.

Prayers for Our Church and Local Community

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-16

12 But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; **13** esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. **14** And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. **15** See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. **16** Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **19** Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not despise prophecies, **21** but test everything; hold fast to what is good; **22** abstain from every form of evil.

23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound^[a] and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us.

2. Write your prayer for how you want the church to be Christ in the community. Pray for the church and the community before setting your cross back on the table.

You may wish to take a moment to look at what other people have written and pray for those things too.

Prayers for Those Affected by Hurricane Helene

1. Read Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^[a] help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

Water and rocks, mud, wind, sand and trees have done some mighty damage. How can we find God in the midst of these elements and be part of the accompaniment of those most affected?

Pray for all those impacted by the Hurricane, and then take a rock out of the bowl of water. Dry it off, hold it in your hand. Pray for God's solid presence, pray for the re-ordering, re-building, and re-assurance of God's people.

Prayers for the Middle East

1. Read Isaiah 2

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob,

come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

2. Using a pipecleaner, make the shape of a sword.

3. Read this prayer to yourself

God of all the nations, as we gather on this World Communion Sunday, we acknowledge that all is not right in the world. We long for peace-- in Palestine, Lebanon, Israel, and in all the places where there is violence and war. We grieve our nation's own contributions to that violence. Help us to remain steadfast in our commitment to global justice and peace. Open our hearts to our siblings throughout the world and open our hearts to your Spirit. In the name of Jesus, our savior, we pray, Amen.

4. Now turn the pipecleaner into a heart, peace sign, or other shape that represents peace to you.

Prayers for Those we Know and Love

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill^[a] the law of Christ.

Light a candle and pray for someone you know who is struggling, ill, grieving, lonely, or hurting

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