

## **Creator God**

We have so much to be grateful for: we thank you for the fragile gift of life with all its joys and responsibilities experiences and opportunities.

We thank you for warm and safe homes — even if sometimes they feel too small for our ambitions.

We thank you for refrigerators and pantries stocked with the things we need.

We thank you for the love and loyalty of our friends and family.

We thank you for games well played, for work well done, for all the wisdom we have gained.

We thank you for yet another day to live as free people.

Loving God,  
we give you thanks.

We live in the bounty of your goodness to us,

And yet, still  
we name the ways  
that our world is still a troubled mess.

We know that for so many of our neighbours in this city,

life includes much sadness,  
and loss, loneliness, and unfair treatment.

Not all pantries and refrigerators are full  
not all homes  
are safe and warm

Homelessness and degrading ways of living are still a reality

in 21st century Edmonton  
Forgive our complacency in the  
face of such suffering.

And as we lift up our brothers  
and sisters who live rough on  
the street,

those who live with addiction  
and mental illness,

people who fell through the  
cracks,

forgotten by the system...

Stir in us a passion to challenge  
our assumptions,

change our society

and make our city

more safe and kind and caring.

May we always be a  
creative people,

dreaming up ways to share  
what we have,

and shape our common life.

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In these strange days,  
we pray for the safety  
and fair treatment of  
grocery store workers,  
health care professionals,  
essential service providers,  
truck drivers,  
law enforcement,  
first responders,  
and so many others who keep  
our systems running.

—

Especially now we ask  
that our political leaders  
and public servants would be  
humble in their office,  
wise in their policies,  
compassionate and capable  
in their handling of our  
resources,  
our pressing issues,  
and especially  
the vulnerable people  
among us.

A good number of those who  
gather with us today face  
daunting struggles of their  
own;

many of who suffer from  
anxiety and fear,

real economic challenges and  
struggles,

questions about employment  
and our future,

concerns about their health or  
the health of their loved-ones.

Holy Spirit — comforter and  
advocate,

speak to our hearts,

groan with our weary hearts

and show us the way ahead.

Loving God,

we continue to cry out for your  
intervention in our world.

Even as we ask you to

move in our lives

shape our lives,  
heal our hurting friends  
and show us real miracles...

— Send your Spirit to stir our  
hearts to works of love.

And show us the ways we can  
live the Jesus-life in the world.

With full hearts we pray,

Amen.