

Wind of God

Each week we find it a pretty easy thing to assemble a list of requests, concerns, worries and even complaints. We know the suffering of those who live near us, and we can name our own troubles so well.

We recognize and consider the needs of people in our community, our city, and our nation.

Wounded bodies, minds, and souls. Illness, unfairness, loss and grief, addictions and terrible unexpected tragedies. Loneliness, depression, isolation and anxiety.

Systems and governments and empires – Our air and water. Our best efforts only scratch the surface of a world's appeals. Lord – hear our prayer.

This week, so many of us have been grieved and horrified to watch such calamity unfold in the United States. The death of George Floyd is one more name added to a long list – so many black men and women, minorities and outsiders, unfairly targeted, brutalized and killed.

A long and dark history of systemic racism that has destroyed so many lives, traumatizing communities, and families.

Men in women in uniform, in courts, law-makers and those tasked with the public good; who betray the public trust and perpetuate injustice.

We hold in prayer those who mourn the loss of their friends and loved ones.

We hold in prayer those whose hearts are filled with righteous anger – as they cry out in protest and demonstrate their unrest and disappointment.

We hold in prayer those who fear for their lives whenever they interact with law enforcement.

We hold in prayer prophets, preachers, organizers, leaders, and activists. May the spirit of peace prevail.

May the persistent pressure of a righteous cause move the scales of justice.

We hold in prayer those who fight for fairness and advocate for the voiceless.

Even as we look south of our border – we know that racism, bigotry, and prejudices have footholds in our own nation.

As the decedents of settlers we know that our failure to honour treaties with indigenous peoples and the disastrous church and government policies have harmed, and continue to harm so many. The sins of the past, and the ongoing indifference of our society – the desire to “leave the past in the past” as a way to paper over old wounds.

We know that Asian people have been subject to ridicule and abuse because of Covid-19.

We know that sexual harassment and routine discrimination against women is still a part of many of our workplaces.

We know that LGBTQ people are subject to mistreatment, hatred, and abuse.

We know that our prisons are disproportionately populated by racial minorities.

We know that there are many forms of racism and discrimination that are subtle and casual – and they are easy to take for granted if they don't explicitly affect us.

We know that there are many systems of injustice that we too often take for granted.

Holy Spirit – on the day of Pentecost we call to mind divisions of race and class, sexual identity and gender, old and obvious divisions -- and lessons we have yet to learn.

Give us courage as we show up and speak up.

Give us supple hearts as we learn hard lessons and have our eyes opened.

Give us eyes to see the ways we might be agents of change – even as we are changed.

We hold in prayer the stewards of justice in our society.

We hold in prayer the victims and the perpetrators.

Holy Spirit – gather us in; Earth's divided and conflicted children
Unite us and call us together.

Teach us the way of Love and Mercy

Heal the fractures in our common life.

Lord – in your mercy – hear our many prayers.