

Heavenly Father,

In this season of harvest, we give you thanks for your provision and sustenance and for the beauty that surrounds us in this season. For the gifts of soil and seed, sun and rain; for the promise of spring and the fulfillment of harvest, we offer you our praise and thanksgiving. For warm days and cool evenings, for sunsets and dancing skies at night; we delight in your infinite beauty. All of creation is charged with the grandeur of your divine life.

God, we grieve the exploitation and our lack of care for the natural world you have created. For the fires consuming the forests of the earth and the plastics choking the waters: Lord have mercy on us.

We pray for the millions of people around the world who have been threatened and displaced due to flood, drought, heat, and natural disasters. We ask that you would provide a shelter from the storm and shade from the heat. We mourn the enormous loss of habitat and the shocking decline of species due, in part, to our own behaviours and misguided policies.

As your church, may we find our prophetic voice and discover ways to take needed action. We place our hope in Christ who promises to make all things new.

On this Thanksgiving weekend, we remember the bravery and sacrifice of those who arrived on this land in search of a better life for their children; and we acknowledge those whose lands, culture, and children were stolen from them.

We are grateful for the peace, security, and opportunity many of us enjoy and we pray for justice and deliverance for those who live with poverty, discrimination, isolation, and lack of security. We lift up those whose situations have been made worse as a result of this pandemic and its wide-ranging effects.

As your church, mobilize us and lead us by your Spirit to bring your hope and light in practical ways to those who suffer. We pray for our leaders in government, that they would act with wisdom and compassion in their decision-making during these difficult times.

We pray for our front-line workers that you would give them your strength and protection.

God, for those of us who are scattered throughout the city in our homes this morning, we pray for your peace and protection over our neighbours. We pray for those, in particular, who are afraid, alone, grieving, overwhelmed, hungry, unsafe, without work, and lacking hope. We pray for those who are spiritually searching and pondering the most important questions. Grant us opportunities, through friendship and dialogue, to share the reason for our hope and our joy. By the power of your Spirit, lead us forward as your church, in such a time as this, to transform our societies with love in action.

Through Christ our Peace we live up these prayers and petitions.
Amen.