

## A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Spirit of Jesus --  
Come with fire that refines,  
Water that refreshes,  
Wind that topples,  
Breath that fills.

Kindle a global revival of empathy, justice,  
and active peacemaking.

Birth a witness of Love that is bigger and better  
than we inherited.

Liberate us from privilege and oppression.

Unshackle the gospel from nationalism, colonialism,  
white supremacy, and every other lens  
that shrouds the Good News.

Give us an abundance of grace for others and ourselves.

Grant us compassion for those who suffer.

Free us from the influence of money, power, and acclaim.

Restore our reputation for caring for the poor,  
loving our neighbors, being ambassadors  
of peace and stewards of the earth.

Unlock the immense resources hoarded in the Western Church  
and release them for your name's sake.

Encourage us, so we do not grow cynical,  
isolated, and burnt-out.

Fan our hopes, our joys, and our connections.

Allow us to rest when we need rest.

Enable us to see you in each person we encounter.

Show us mercy, in our humanity.

Let us love more fully than we thought possible.

Let us not be quick on the draw,  
ready to retaliate, escalate, assassinate.

Let our collective fervor for justice  
eclipse institutional concerns.

Let us trust and follow the wisdom  
of those who have been marginalized.

Let us persevere in creating safe places of worship  
to eat bread and drink wine together.

Let us stand for Love and with Love,  
    following the way of your Son as best we're able.  
Let us not fear an experiential spirituality.  
Let us listen to the wondrous bodies you gave us.  
Let us hear your voice  
    and tangibly feel you with us.  
Let us discern your guidance.  
Let us abide in and with you.

Show us what you're doing, so we can work together.  
    Move where you will, when you will,  
    in whatever way you will.  
    Come, Holy Spirit and restore your Church.  
    Amen.

~ Rev. Emily Swan