

Prayer of the Church – 1.28.24 – Epiphany 4

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their promises and be upright in their ways. Strengthen the work of resettlement agencies, especially our partners such as **Lutheran World Relief**, and keep safe those who work to safeguard and promote the good across the world, including our own **Patrick, Claire, Nate, Carter, Jonathon, Alex, Jackson, Stephen, Bryson, and Brendan** as well as our **missionaries** whom we are blessed to support financially and prayerfully.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer, especially **Donna, Ralph, Bob, Paul, Donna, Esther, Mary, Ray, Diane, Janet, Jan, Alison, and Allen** as well as our **friends and family requesting prayers, and those whom we name in our hearts.**

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community, including Cornerstones, the food pantry, hypothermia shelter, and The Closet. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed. Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery hidden for ages in the One who created all things.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up the names today of our brothers and sisters to whom you have given life: **Marcus, Sebastian, Thatcher, Kevin, Jonathan, Monica, Alison, John, and Andrea.** May their birthday celebrations and shared love of Christ reveal God's goodness, sustenance, and faithfulness.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.