

"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. No. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." Dwight L. Moody

Ever-present, Majestic, Sovereign God, we come. We come. We come, because we really do want you, our Loving God, to help us, guide us, heal us, comfort us. And yet Lord, Mr. Moody is right - too often we don't come to you, many times thinking you have other things, other people more important than us and our concerns. And yet, Lord, when we think this way, we diminish you and your love for us. Just because we can't grasp how you can love each one of us unconditionally and individually; because we can't grasp why or how you even want to be part of our everyday lives, then we easily dismiss bringing you into our lives. And we hurt ourselves by neglecting to seek your wisdom and direction and the hope you can give us. Other times, we assume we know your will and what you want, and therefore, we don't need to actually talk to you and ask you. But again, we hurt ourselves when we don't stop to hear your voice either of affirmation or of challenge to our thoughts. And so we ask your forgiveness. And we seek to remind ourselves that just as we want our children to love us and want to be with us, share with us, so you want us to be with you in that same kind of relationship. And we thank you.

Lord, there are many who are on our hearts and minds today. We pray for those in Mexico hit by yet two more earthquakes. We pray for the people of the Caribbean, particularly Puerto Rico, whose lives have been devastated by the hurricanes. We pray for government officials, early responders, and for their families here who are worried about their loved ones, unable to properly communicate, and unable to be physically there to help. We lift up our country and the continuing debates and racial tensions that are proliferating rather than easing. Lord, please bring to our land a sense of commonality and desire to work together, to understand one another, and to speak and act in ways that are good for all the people. Lord, help our leaders, and help us, to listen to one another with open ears and open minds. To be less prone to state our opinions and more willing to engage in calm and honest discussion. Help us remember the fruits of your Spirit are peace and patience and kindness and gentleness. May we bear those fruits in our lives, our land and our church.

Lord, there are others...

O God, we seek to pray for our church, John Wesley, for we are your voice and vehicle to share your good news with those around us. This is what you have called us to do, and we wish to do our best. And so hear us, as we pray together our John Wesley prayer...

Dear Lord, we want John Wesley to be a strong and vital church in our community. And we want to be guided by your vision and plan for us. As we move into the future, please lead us all in our thoughts, our discussions, and our decisions. Show us what you would have us do and how you would have us do it. And help us always remember that John Wesley is your church, not ours – may your will be done. In Christ's name we pray. Amen