

R.A. Torrey: “We sometimes fear to bring our troubles to God, because we think they must seem small to Him who reigns over the earth. But if they are large enough to make us fret and worry, they are large enough to touch His heart of love.”

O Loving God, we come to this place of worship today to say we love you and we want to be with you. To praise you and thank you and worship you. For you are, not only the Creator God who is sovereign and powerful over all. But you are also the Parent God, who, as St. Augustine said, loves each one of us as if there were only one of us. And sometimes that is hard for us to grasp. That’s why it’s true that as we go about our daily lives, we often believe that our troubles are minor and insignificant compared to the trials and problems of others, therefore we assume we shouldn’t “bother” you. That you have other things and people to attend to which are more important and more deserve your attention. And yet, O Lord, just as we feel for each one of our children, regardless of the magnitude of the problem, so you feel for us. When we hurt, you hurt. When we are afraid, you remind us to “fear not.” When we worry, you remind us that you know what we need. For indeed, yours is a heart of love. A heart big enough to encompass all of humanity, and all the issues we encounter. And so forgive us for attempting to decide what parts of our lives matter to you. All parts of our lives matter to you. Forgive us for a false smugness that says we don’t need to pray for ourselves. Even Jesus prayed for himself. And so, Lord, help us to open our hearts so that we bring to you all things, that you might truly be Lord of all parts of our lives.

And Lord this day we have loved ones we wish to pray for, and we especially lift up Officer Sean Gannon’s wife, and family, and his brothers and sisters in law enforcement, and his dog, Nero. Lord, we are saddened and angry that yet another innocent life is taken. This shouldn’t have happened. And yet, we know that we live in a world that is broken. That while there is beauty and joy and laughter, there is evil and injustice and suffering. Help us to remember that Jesus was killed because of evil and injustice, and so we trust that you know how we feel. Please provide comfort, strength, support and assurance to his loved ones and to all who have been touched by his life. And may we, as a country, work harder and work together to find ways to bring peace and dispel the violence that seems to run so rampant. Lord there are others we wish to lift up. You have heard those on our prayer list, but hear us now as people in this congregation lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing.

Lord, as we continue in this service, and prepare ourselves to go out into the Mission Field around us, may we be inspired and committed to share the good news, the hope, the joy of knowing our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...