

Author Robert Baer “Bethlehem was God with us; Calvary was God for us; and Pentecost is God in us.”

O Gracious and Loving God we give you thanks that you are with us, for us and in us. And Lord we pray that just as your Holy Spirit swept in and through the disciples 2,000 years ago, so may your Holy Spirit sweep in and through each one of us in this place today. Like those disciples of old, may we be so excited, so convicted of what you can do in our lives, that we truly want to share you with others. May we have a heart for those who don't know you, may we have the courage to be willing to talk about you, and may we have the determination to live in such a way that others will want what we have. May each one of us bear the fruits of your Holy Spirit in our lives. The fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. May this Pentecost be a renewal for us as individuals and as a church, John Wesley. For our world is in need. Sometimes we see what's happening around us, and we cry out like the Psalmist “How long O Lord?” How long will we continue to see school shootings – and the death and grief and pain over the loss of innocent lives? How long will division, prejudice and hatred make the spotlight, verses striving for unity, compromise and the common good. How long will people in the pews of our churches stay comfortable in their “cozy clique of Christ,” and not look for ways to bring the understanding, tolerance and peace of Christ to those who do not know. Have mercy on us, Lord. And blow, Spirit, blow across this nation and this world.

Lord, we are grateful that we can find hope for our world, in that seven young adults are making a commitment to you, and to our church today. We thank you for the counter cultural statement they are making and we ask that you would give them strength and wisdom and clarity as they face a world that seems increasingly hostile to the Christian faith. May they make a difference in their school, their activities, with their friends. And may each of us be an example to them and to the world.

Lord, there are others that we pray for today. 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's Prayer