

C.S. Lewis: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

O Holy, Creator God, thank you for the beauty of this day. Thank you for the freedom we have to come together to worship you as we choose. Thank you for one another and the ways we share our faith and our lives together. And we especially thank you that we have this time and place away from the busy world, from filled schedules, from competing noises, where we can regroup, reprioritize, recommit to following our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God, we confess that it is sometimes easy to let the world around us blind us to the S-O-N. We let clouds of worry, stress, frustration, resentment, indifference come over us, and we then have an un-Christ like view of our lives, of people, of responsibilities, of the future, and more. And we can easily become depressed, discouraged, wanting to withdraw and insulate ourselves, rather than go out to be a light of love and hope and encouragement to people around us. Forgive us, Lord, and open our eyes and our hearts to your power and your presence and your place in our lives. Help us to see our lives in relation to you. For only then can we truly understand what is important, what is meaningful, what is real. May we align our will with your will, our desires with your desires, and our thoughts, actions and behaviors with that of Jesus Christ. This we ask for your sake, for our sake and for the sake of the people around us.

Lord, we pray for others today – here and around the world. We pray for those caught in the volcanoes of Guatemala and Hawaii. We pray for leaders around the world, and the decisions that are being made and will be made – that those decisions would be for the good of all your people and peace in our world. And Lord, this week as we have heard of two high profile suicides, we pray for all who feel hopeless, who feel lost, who feel there is nowhere to turn. God, those demons of depression and despair threaten so many, and we pray that that both we as a society and we as a Christian church would work hard to put forth resources and help which can bring about healing, and support and hopefulness in their lives.

There are others we wish to pray for. You have heard those on our prayer list...

Lord's Prayer