

Pastoral prayer: Bidding prayer. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Lord, we come here today in fellowship with one another setting aside this time solely for you. To offer you praise and worship, to hear you speak to us, and to leave here shaped a little bit more into the likeness of Jesus Christ. So we come humbly and quietly before you, praying, Lord, in your mercy...

O God, we thank you for those times this week where we smiled and laughed, those times of friendship enjoyed, of meals shared, those times when we appreciated the beauty of nature, when we felt a peace in our hearts, when we paused to be grateful for the life you have given us. For all of these, and so much more, we know that we are blessed. And in gratitude and joy, we pray, Lord in your mercy...

For our days of difficulty and struggle, for the times when we have been less than our best, we give you thanks that you do not turn away from us and that we are never alone. The Bible tells us that when we confess our sins, you are gracious and just to forgive us, and help us start anew. And so, we pause in silence to personally confess our sins to you now. Lord, in your mercy....

Lord, we lift to you our church. We want John Wesley to be a strong and vital church in our community. We want to be used by you to make a difference in the lives of others. The need for hope, acceptance, love and compassion is great, and you are the answer to those needs. Help us to show others the way to you through our programs, through our ministries, and most of all through our lives and example. Lord, in your mercy...

We lift to you our country and its leaders. We thank you that government employees can go back to work and be paid. And we pray now for change. We pray that egos and power plays will be set aside, and that wisdom, vision and collaboration will prevail. You are sorely needed, and so Lord, in your mercy...

Lord, for those who are sick, suffering, lonely, misguided, or just in need of your presence, we ask that you would touch them with your healing, with your guidance, with your peace. You have those on our prayer list, but hear us now as people in this congregation lift out loud the names of those for whom we ask your blessing.... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, for the confidence and joy and hope we have because we walk daily with you, we give you thanks and praise in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. And all the people of God said...Amen.