

“If you only pray when you’re in trouble...you’re in trouble.”

O Loving, Listening, All Wise God, we are grateful for this day of worship and celebration and joy! To be able to say thank you, first of all to you, and also to one another for all the ways we have worked together, played together, loved together, supported one another, encouraged one another on our faith journey, and brought others to know you more deeply. Lord, it is so meaningful to be in ministry with you, for you and with one another. And that is why we lift our thanks and praise to you in prayer this day. Because we want to bring all things to you in prayer, and to share all that we are thinking, because that is what you want, and that’s what is best for us. You know our thoughts anyway, so we can hide nothing. And as we heard, we do ourselves no good not to bring things to you. We are often guilty of creating our own trouble because we try to do things our way, without consulting you, we try to control or change others instead of loving them and praying for them, we often complain or get frustrated or whine, rather than sit quietly with you to listen to what you would say to us. We confess that we are sometimes more prone to being reactive – wanting you to fix something, rather than being proactive – bringing everything to you and ask for your help and guidance. And so we recommit ourselves to taking our prayer life more seriously, understanding that prayer is not getting what we want – prayer is getting to know you. The One who created us, loves us, died for us, and wants life abundant for us. Not only here and now, but forever with you.

Lord, this day we come in celebration, and we come also with concerns. There are many who are in need of your love, your strength, your peace, your guidance. And so we lift them up to you, trusting that our prayers matter. Trusting that as a community of faith we can make a difference not only through our ministries, but through our prayers. And so, as brothers and sisters together in Christ, hear us now as people in the congregation lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing.