

“Nothing you confess will make me love you less.” Jesus

O God who created us to be in relationship with us, we are grateful to come both to this place and to your table today. For we do hunger for you – we hunger to know that we are loved, we hunger to know that our life has meaning and purpose, no matter our age or station in life. We hunger to know that we do not walk this journey of life alone, but that we have someone who goes with us who knows us intimately, and who understands us even when we don’t understand ourselves. That is why it is good to make our confessions to you. Because with you we can be honest, we must be honest. For only then will we see ourselves as you see us, and acknowledge our need for forgiveness. And only then can we humbly call upon your strength to help us make the changes we need to make and become the person you want us to be. And Lord, even as we ask your forgiveness, help us to forgive ourselves. Sometimes we feel shame, sometimes we feel frustrated with ourselves, sometimes we can’t let go of something. And so may this day be for each of us a new beginning as we come now to you in silence with our personal prayers of confession.

O God, we remember your words through the prophet Isaiah, “I am he who blots out your transgressions and remembers your sin no more.” Thank you, Lord.

And with clean hearts we come to lift up others in prayer. We pray for those we know, but help us also remember those who are often forgotten. The mentally ill, the lonely elderly, the homeless just getting through another day, the oppressed in other countries who have no running water, no medical care, no proper sanitation. Make us humbly grateful for what we have, and make us ever aware of the difficulties and struggles of our fellow human beings. Lord, there are those we specifically want to bring to you today. You have heard those on our prayer list, but there are others. So hear us now as people in this congregation lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing.

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