

Dwight Moody – “Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. This is not true. The way to trouble God is not to come at all.”

O loving God, we do come before you this morning, glad to be here. Another week has passed, and we have tried to live faithfully and fully. We have been mindful of our blessings, we have shared love and conversation with family and friends, and we have tried to serve you through our work in and for the church, as well as in our daily interactions with others. For we want to live Christian lives. And yet Lord, we confess that there are times when we look at you and our Christian faith as something that is a part of our life, rather than being our life. We are sometimes guilty of setting you aside when it comes to things like spending our money, compromising our values, wanting to get back at someone, stubbornly holding on to an opinion we should rethink, succumbing to a temptation. And sometimes we don't even want to bring these things to you because, well frankly, we don't want to hear what we know you will say. Forgive us. Forgive us when we are satisfied with being less than our best, when we don't want to take the higher road. And help us remember that you want us to love you with all our heart and all our mind and all our soul, which means all of us. Which means you do want us to come to you with all things. Even those things we don't want to. Even those things we think you're not interested in. Even those things that don't seem big and important. All things. For only then will our Christian faith inform and direct our all our thoughts, our decisions, our actions.

Lord, one of the privileges in our Christian life is to pray for others. To be able to share with them in their need, and to bring them to your loving care. And so we pray both for those we know and those we don't. For we read in the news those who have been killed, abused, detained, oppressed, stricken with illness and more, and we want to express our sympathy by lifting them to you. And there are others we know that we wish to lift up. You have heard those listed, but there are others, so hear us as people in this congregation lift aloud the names for whom we ask your blessing...

Lord's Prayer