

“Heaven finds an ear when sinners find a tongue.” Poet Francis Quarles

O Lord God, the One who created us, redeems us and sustains us in our lives, we come to you today – this first Sunday in Lent to lay ourselves before you. We come to acknowledge our sins and frailties, because that frees us to be forgiven, cleansed and transformed. We want to be honest with you and with ourselves during this season, so that we grow more into the likeness of Jesus Christ, who died that we might be saved. And so as we prepare our hearts and souls to come to your table of grace today, we pause now in silence to bring you our personal prayers and confessions.

O Lord, you told us through the prophet Isaiah, “I am he who blots out your transgressions, and remembers your sins no more.” And we thank you O God.

Lord, we come to you to pray not only for ourselves, but for others. In these troubled times when we hear threats and concerns about Coronavirus, when politicians seem anxious to tell us how bad things are in this country, so they can make them better, when we hear of yet another mass shooting of innocent people, when money and the stock market put people on edge and make them fearful, we are acutely aware that we need you. We need you to bring calmness, assurance and wisdom for we, your people. So that we can discern what is right, what is true, what is good. Lord, we are reminded of your words which we so need to take to heart: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” And so Lord, forgive us, not only as individuals, but collectively, as a nation, for the ways in which we have turned away you. Humble us all, and set us on a right path.

Lord there are specific people we wish to pray for as well. You have heard those on our prayer list, but there are others...