

German author Johann Goethe – “People do not mind their faults being spread out before them, but they become impatient if called on to give them up.”

O Merciful God, we come before you today as those who are both saint and sinner. Lord, in our hearts we want to be good people, good Christians. And we look for ways to help, to give, to try to be understanding and compassionate. But these are times that are trying to us. We are restless as our activities have been curtailed and social events cancelled. We are angry and upset – at things we can name and things we can't quite put our finger on. We are anxious at the unknown and the “what ifs” we continue to hear. We are impatient in the waiting, and we find ourselves fretting over numbers, statistics, and predictions of things to come. Forgive us, Lord. This is not the way of Christ, nor the way of those seeking to be his disciples. We are citizens of heaven first of all, children of the Most High God, made in the image of the One who is love, the One who sheds light and hope, the One who brings peace, the One whose power is over all things, even death itself. And so we humble ourselves, and spread our faults and frailties out before you this day. Asking for your forgiveness. Asking your help to give up that which prevents us from trusting you, that which causes us to be less than the best you call us to be. And so we pause now, so we come to you with our own personal confessions.

Lord, we are reminded that you said, “I am he who blots out your transgressions and remembers your sin no more.” Thank you, Lord. And may your Holy Spirit take up residence within us today, that our hearts and minds would be set on you, guided, comforted, and called on to bear your light and love.

Lord, there are those we wish to lift up today. Over the 50 hours of continuous prayer we had from individuals, you heard our concerns and intercessions over COVID-19. You have heard those mentioned, but there are others, and so I pause so that people in this congregation can lift to the names for whom we ask your blessing.

Lord, it has been said that “music is the prayer the heart sings.” And so we listen as Diane sings The Lord's Prayer