

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come to be still in your presence, to offer you our worship, and to hear your word for us today. For we need to hear and be filled with that which is good and right and hopeful. Because the world around us is filled with a hatred and violence and division that seems to be running rampant. Lord, we pray for peace, and we pray that we would be peacemakers. By what we say, what we do, how we act. We admit, Lord, sometimes it is hard to feel at peace when we are surrounded by so many voices of anger, of blame, of animosity. And we think about these things and wonder how we can be a peacemaker. And yet the Bible tells us how to through the words of St. Paul who said, “Now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting this into practice. Then the God of peace will be with you.” But we confess, Lord that sometimes our thoughts are not focused on what is honorable, what is right, what is pure, what is lovely. Sometime our thoughts are focused on that which makes us angry, frustrated, discouraged, anxious. And we need your forgiveness. Lord we come to your table today both to ask your forgiveness, and to be nourished to live more faithful lives as Christians – members of the Body of Jesus Christ. And we need to prepare our hearts and souls to take Communion. So we pause now so that all of us who are worshipping can bring to you our own personal prayers of confession.

Lord God you have promised, “I will forgive their transgressions, and remember their sins no more.”
Thank you, Lord.

And on this day we pray for our country – for all that is happening. We pray for divisiveness that is fueling the flames of riots and protests and violence. We pray for the continuing issues around COVID 19 and how that affects people and our society. And we pray for the people and issues in our own everyday lives that need your help and comfort and guidance. And so hear us Lord, as we pause once again so that people lift to you the names for which we ask your blessing.

We ask all this in the name of the One who died for our sins, as we hear Diane sing The Lord’s Prayer