

O God of all creation, in the silence of the morning, as the new day dawned around the world; your people began to gather for worship amid the sounds of drums or marimbas, strings or pianos. And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus. Prayerfully, reflectively, gratefully, we have gathered together in your presence. Because you have invited us, we have come just as we are with hearts wide open. Through voices expected and unexpected you have challenged us to see the world with new eyes. This table reminds us again and again to live the love that Jesus showed us, offering us a glimpse of the time when your realm will break out in all its fullness not only in our own community, but over this nation, and this earth.

Almighty God, even as the drums of violence beat on through the night, even as the cries of injustice linger in the morning, even as the hustle of busyness rumbles through the day, quiet our hearts. Still our minds. Join us as we worship you. Remember us in your mercy as we try to remember you, through the proclamation of your good news, in story and in song, and through the hospitality of your gracious table.

Today, O God, we confess our frailties, our fumbings, and our failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task you have set before us. When we look around us, we ache for the pain that is so evident. And so we offer prayers for those who find life to be difficult this day: for those among us who worry about their health or the health of a loved one, for those who live in places where peace and justice are known by their absence rather than their presence, for those who worry about where the next meal will come from, or where to find a safe shelter, for those whose voices have been silenced. Today, we pray for

Lord, we pray that all who struggle in life will know that they are not alone, that they are held in a love that will never let them go. Gracious God, we pray that you would continue to pour out your Spirit upon this gathering, that we might experience your presence in our midst. Lord, you have surrounded us with friends to share the journey as we dare to dream of creation renewed and hope restored. Rejuvenate and empower us as we go out to live your love in our worlds, through Jesus Christ. Amen.