

PP Oct 14

We have gathered in this place this morning, Lord, because we belong to you. We come, O God of the journey, as people from different places, different histories, and different lifestyles. We come hoping to find companionship for the journey, and solidarity for the struggle. We gather seeking to be welcoming of all, with no preferred seating, nor firsts and lasts, and no corners for the least of these. We yearn to live fully, celebrating both the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to love and justice. We thirst for places to bring our doubts, our fears; places to express honestly who we are. We thirst for hope and encouragement as we struggle to follow Jesus in the way of life-risking love.

So, on this bright day, as we prepare to come to your table, we remember those who are not able to be with us; who need help and healing for body, mind, and spirit. We pray for

We also remember those who are grieving and facing deep losses as a result of Hurricane Michael, and the devastation it has wrought on so many. We remember the victims of typhoons and earthquakes that have washed away towns and buried whole villages, and shattered many lives and families around this world. We cannot prevent these events, nor bring back the dead; but we pray for the survivors, and we trust that each day we might be responsive when you show us how we can do our part, even in a small way, to bring hope and help.

Cleanse our hearts and minds today of all anger, resentments, or hatreds that block the love and grace of your Holy Spirit in our lives, and with the promise of your presence, may we be strengthened to be faithful today and in the days ahead. Amen.