

Creator God: We give you thanks for this day, for the beauty of this place, for the wonders of the planet you have entrusted to us, and the vastness of the universe—which is so much more than we can comprehend.

Savior God in Christ: We give thanks for the gift of grace, for the ways that we have been touched by your saving love. We confess our unworthiness, the times we give into temptation, the ways we fail to live up to our calling as followers of Jesus. With humble hearts, we put our trust in your promise of forgiveness and rejoice that you keep on loving us again and again—always—just as we are. We ask that you would guide and strengthen us, especially during this Lenten season, that we might grow in faith and in faithfulness.

Holy Spirit who breathes life into each of us and inspires community among all of us: We pray that we might be renewed by the power of your presence and empowered to share the gift of your presence with others. Show us the way and give us the power to be the body of Christ for one another and for the world.

Make us instruments of healing for others. We pray for those whose needs we know, for those dealing with relationships breaking or broken, those facing uncertain futures, those dealing with the challenge of caring for loved ones who are ill or whose memory is fading, for those with health concerns, waiting for diagnoses, anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, enduring treatments—short and long, living with chronic pain, for those who are facing death and those who are grieving the death of loved ones. Grant to all—according to their need—patience, strength, and courage; healing, comfort, and hope.

Make us instruments of your will within this church and community. We pray that others will know we are Christians by our love, our love for one another, our love for those with whom we agree and those with whom we disagree, our love for those who are different from us as well as those who are similar, our love for brothers and sisters who are hungry, homeless, afflicted by addiction of whatever kind, love for those who are neglected and rejected by others. We love because you first loved us. We love all because we know that all are made in your own image.

Make us instruments of your justice and peace in the world, heeding your call to worship in word and deed.

Gracious God—you who have called us together to be your church in this holy time and place: Grant us the wisdom to see the future to which you call us, and the courage to pursue it together.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Harris-Ewing
March 10, 2019