

PPC Mar. 3

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of being here today in this place, surrounded by the light and warmth of friends and family. Again we are privileged to be invited to gather at your table, to partake of the bread and cup that recalls us into fellowship with the One who brings hope and life.

We thank you for this church, the body of Christ, of which we are a part; for the blessing of living in this community; for the beauty of creation; for so many opportunities to use the resources we have been given to bring life and hope to many people.

Lord, we present ourselves to you again this morning with the knowledge that your love and grace surrounds us beyond our deserving. We know we fall short; we struggle with fears and frailties. But through your grace and forgiveness you have called us into your love; to be salt and light; to be your children; and so once again we come as we are, seeking help for the week ahead, the knowledge of your will, and the strength to respond with willingness.

Today we lift up the ones we love; our children, parents, our extended families; those who are grieving this morning; those who are restless and discontent; those who are suffering. We lift up those in our church family who need your comfort:

In our communion, we add prayers for those around the world who gather for worship on every continent, throughout every culture. We pray for the ones in the midst of war, refugee camps, and homeless shelters. Grant them an extra portion of strength and grace as they call upon your name.

As we prepare, Lord, to enter the season of Lent, leading us to Easter, may we use this season to slow down, to listen to your voice, to draw closer to you, and to turn from the distractions that keep us from the power of your joy.

May we also work together as your church, empowered by your spirit, bringing a welcome grace to those whom you bring into our lives. These prayers and the prayers of our innermost hearts we bring to your care, in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.