

A Liturgy for Welcome & Inclusion
with Prayers for the People

- Karina: Blessed be God, who loves all creation!
- Eden: God's love has no exceptions, Alleluia!
- Karina: We are the body of Christ!
- Eden: Justice seeking, bread breaking, song singing, risk taking ...
- Both: Body of Christ.
- Karina: Baptized by one Spirit, we are members of one body.
- Eden: Many and varied in culture, sexuality, age, class, and ability, we are members of Christ's beautiful body.
- Karina: None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."
- Both: For only together can we find wholeness.
- Eden: None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."
- Both: For we are connected like muscle and bone. If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!
- Karina: Come in, all are welcome, come into worship! Come with your longings, your questions, and your fears.
- Both: Come with your dreams of a better day, one with dignity and safety for all!
- Eden: Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one!

Prayers of the People

- Eden: Holy One, we believe that your love will find a way to heal our wounded world, and that suffering, and poverty will end. For we believe in your persistent love.
- ALL: God help us be your love in the world. Send us to those who suffer.
- Eden: We believe that you have made us who we are, in your image, a beautiful community of race and culture and sexual identity. You declared us "good". We celebrate this diversity, for we believe in your creative imagination.
- ALL: God help us to make it safe for all to live with integrity, for barriers to tumble down, that we might all live in peace. Send us out to change the world.
- Eden: We believe we are all members of one body. We share a heart with those who suffer violence, who live in fear, who are cast out because of their sexuality or any other reason. We ache with them, for we believe that you love without exception.
- ALL: God help us to reach out in love. Send us into the world proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel.
- Eden: We believe that we are not yet perfected. We fear. We judge. We cause harm by our action and our inaction. But we still turn to you for help, for we believe in your forgiveness.
- All: God help us to receive your forgiveness. Send us into the world to forgive.
- Eden: We believe that the liberation of those in captivity did not end with Moses leading slaves out of Egypt, it did not end with Jesus' death and resurrection, but even today you are still pulling humanity out of darkness into the light. For we believe in the Reign of God on earth.

All: God give us courage and stamina. Send us into the world to lead.

Eden: We believe it is not too late for those filled with hate to learn to live in love. For we believe in your heart-transforming power.

All: God help us love even those who hate. Send us out with love for all.

Eden: We believe that our prayers do matter, and so we offer them now for the people and places that long for relief from suffering. For we believe in the power of prayer.

All: God remind us that we are not alone. Send us into the world to be a soft-landing place for all who suffer.

Eden: We believe in gratitude. We offer thanks to those brave souls who risk much for others. We offer thanks for all the moments of grace that sustain us, for we believe that your love and grace surround us on every side.

All: God give us eyes to see your goodness in the world around us. Send us into the world in gratitude.

Eden: We believe that church community are a people in process. We misunderstand your Gospel, give us the courage to take risks for justice, and remind us that our justice does not match yours. Remind us that all means ALL, and you believe in our ability to make room for everyone.

All: God help us to be a better community. Send us into the world as the life-changing, liberating church you imagine. All this we ask in the name of your Holy Trinity. Amen.