



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 3.22.26

Heavenly Father, give peace and comfort to the elderly at Antioch that are facing physical and cognitive decline; be glorified by the way they trust in you in these difficulties, and provide wisdom for those involved in caring for these, your older children.

Lord God, heal, strengthen, and give rest, joy, and hope to Benjamin, Mia, Caitlyn, and their families.

Lord God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the Earth. But whereas your word offers a vision of a diverse kingdom that includes people of every color, tribe, nation, and language, we your people have tended to demean, subjugate, and oppress those who are not like us. As many of our youth embark on their Civil Rights pilgrimage this week, transform their hearts and minds to see people of color through your eyes of inclusion, love, and compassion, that they would order their lives henceforth according to your justice and righteousness.

Father, you sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near. Lord Jesus, you commanded your disciples to refuse to participate in violence and instead to love our enemies. And yet we find ourselves again in a time in which our own government promotes war abroad and utilizes violence at home against the strangers among us whom you singled out as specially in need of our provision and protection. Holy Spirit, move in your church today to both model your kingdom of sacrificial love of others and to oppose governmental policies that are contrary to the goals and methods of your kingdom. Bring peace today in the many conflicts throughout our world, and mold all your followers into peacemakers and those who meet the needs of the many victims of the present conflicts. Pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, bring the nations into your fold, and hasten the coming of your kingdom.

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this and every land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (This paragraph the "Prayer for the Oppressed" from the *Book of Common Prayer*.)

Amen.