



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 07.05.26

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

Our Father, God you are indeed living. We ask for your word, your breath, your healing this week to be with Lanelle and Toby Engel. Calm any fears as they prepare for Toby's surgery tomorrow. Work through the doctors' and nurses' hands to wholly remove the melanoma from his eye tomorrow. For our friend, Jack Goodman who suffered a broken foot, heel, and ankle after falling down the stairs at Shepherd's House, ease the pain and discomfort that he is experiencing now. For all who are in the midst of physical pain, disheartened by diagnoses, overwhelmed by needed treatments; let your healing be swift. Strengthen them for what challenges recovery may bring.

We ask for your presence with Benjamin and the Carlson family as they travel in China to visit Benjamin's birth place, the orphanage where he spent his first two years, and the home the Carlsons lived in before moving to Bend. Allow this trip to be an *eben-ezer*—a marker for the Carlsons of all you have done for their family. Their presence as part of the Antioch family has shown us your power and love. Continue to work in their family.

We pray for mercies for Zach and the middle school students heading to summer camp tomorrow. Move in our 6th through 8th grade students. Draw them to yourself. Establish their friendships and bond them to one another as they learn and play this week.

Jesus, the son, death was never going to hold you. Remind us that we may claim that promise as our own as you are our redeemer. Many among us face ongoing struggles that will require difficult work. Build confidence within us—there will be hard days, challenging outcomes, overwhelm, and struggle—and even through all of this, you are our victory and you are right here with us.

Spirit of truth, yesterday many commemorated the blessings you have poured out on this nation in its 250 year formal history. Let us also hold space for honesty in the acknowledgement of wrongs committed in this place, throughout that history, and henceforth. Permit in our souls, a tension between gratefulness and integrity when we think of our nation. May your justice roll on like a river through this land. Bring your reconciliation and open our eyes to ways we may help usher it in. Soften our hearts to accept it when it comes.

Move us to praise your gracious will, for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.