

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer
August 16, 2020

God, we bring to you our messy lives: the good, the bad, and the ugly. We give you our stories, stripped bare and with the hope that you will help write the next chapter.

Even as we do this, we pray for all those stories that were not... the stories that did not come to pass this year, hopes and expectations that now ring hollow.

We pray for our school children who feel lost without the teachers and schedules and peers that give structure to daily life. We pray for the sense of isolation along with the confusion of not knowing what to expect.

We pray for graduates: from both high school and from college and graduate programs, for goodbyes that have been disrupted for milestones never reached, for futures that remain uncertain.

We pray for all those whose rites of passage in life have been delayed or upended. We pray for confirmands and those preparing for first communion. We pray for young people preparing for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs who did not have the celebration they had hoped for. We pray for the disappointment, the bewilderment of loss, and for your presence to be made known through it.

We pray for wedding plans that have been changed and delayed. While we know that the wedding day celebration does not make a marriage, it is a symbol and a long-cherished (long anticipated) day and so much expectation is carried with it. There is much to grieve.

We pray especially for the many who grieve, but struggle with closure. We hold close all who faced loss this year and have not been able to say goodbye to a loved one.

Be with and redeem all these stories in the lives of our families, friends, neighbors, and be with all who suffer this day.

We seal these prayers with the one he taught us, saying together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and power and the glory, Amen.