

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer
August 23, 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.

We pray for our teachers and school administrators as they struggle to balance important public health priorities with the need to educate. We pray for schools who continue to change plans as new information unfolds and for families trying to keep up. We pray for parents (especially first responders, teachers, nurses, and others) who will scarcely be able to juggle the demands of work with children learning from home. We pray for children who grieving the loss of friends, separation, loneliness.

We pray for all the college students, many in our church community, who are facing the prospect of being sent back home, or being kept off campus, a new semester of disrupted learning and community.

We pray for our seniors, especially those who know of friends with illnesses or are homebound, who desperately want to be there for others and have only a phone with which to connect. We pray for all who are lonely, for those who have not held a loved one in months, who have not sat face to face with another. We pray for lives that feel they are shrinking.

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. We pause to pray for all those who are ill, some grievously so, and ask that you be with them, their friends, their families, and give them peace.

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.