

**Pray.**

**Pray now,**

**Pray for the Others.**

*Love one another. The command echoes through Scripture and awakens us to life. Jesus intended for the world to verify the truth of his message by observing us in our love for one another and all God sends into our lives. (John 13:35, 17:22:23)*

In this season, there are momentous preparations being made for our United Methodist community to part, possibly to multiply in new ways. How we do that matters. **Because praying is an expression of loving that is accessible to all, we, your Conference Leadership Team, call all who can sense the resonance of our voices to, "Pray with us!"** Pray for the wellbeing and faithfulness of those who think differently, whose path seems to diverge from your own. Pray for the ones with whom you are aligned, and for the ones who strive to lead in this poignantly sad and possibly exciting time. The world is watching how we treat one another.

In the process of teaching humanity how to pray, Jesus left us with a treasure. "Our Father..."\* This week, as we invoke the presence of the One who created and loves us, we invite you to pay special attention to the *"Our."* As you say it, let your mind and heart embrace and be joined with all in our conference who desire God. Follow the gift of these words into a sense of awe at the name of our God, leave our circumstances in God's care, and allow yourself to be drawn into praying this ancient prayer as part of a body. What will be, will be. Today, let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray.

Although the text, with modifications in italics, from the UM Hymnal (#894) is shared here for any who may not be familiar with The Lord's Prayer, we invite you to use whatever version comes most freely to your heart and mind as we pray together.

Our [*Mother/Father/Creator*]\* in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

\* God is, of course, beyond identification with a single gender. Please pray using the language for God that helps you feel closest to God.

*This week's prayer is provided by the Rev. Harold Wheat.*