

Prayer of Discernment

**“Where your treasure is, there
will your heart be also.”
Matthew 6:21**

INVOCATION

Gracious God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Life, have mercy on us. Reveal yourself in all things, to all things, and through all things. Grant us the gift of becoming a community of the Incarnation-mystery of Word made flesh, who sees and celebrates Good News in hard places. Give us the tongue of a teacher to sustain the weary with a word, and mobilize leaders from all walks of life to love their city and seek its peace with the Gospel of Jesus.

PRESENCE

You are Immanuel—the God who is with us. There is nowhere we can flee from your presence, and nothing can separate us from your love. The whole world is a burning bush, filled with your glory. Our city is a cathedral of grace, a sacred and holy place. We accept your invitation to relax into this miracle—to notice and to welcome your presence in all things, everywhere even here, even now.

Where is God's presence clearly visible? Where is God's presence particularly needed or hard to see?

GRATITUDE

Lord and giver of life, we give thanks. You are the giver of all good gifts. The deepest form of gratitude we can offer is our own joy. We share it with you because in our greatest longings and our deepest desires, we recognize that your presence is the substance of all that we hope for. We give thanks...

For what are you grateful? Be specific. Name it.

GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, wild and free. Do as you please. Give us the courage and compassion to see things as they are. Ease the fear that blinds us and binds us to our false selves and keeps us from the truth that sets us free. Reacquaint us with our deepest desire and help us trust that our deepest desires are your delight. They are trustworthy guides who lead us back to you and return us to ourselves. Help us name our deepest desires, especially the ones we've long forgotten and long denied.

Notice places of fear or resistance in your spirit, places of freedom and a sense of invitation. Lift these up to God.

REFLECTION

As those who are being renewed by your love, we freely confess to you our wounds - the deep wounds of blindness, voicelessness, despair, and isolation. We confess our misplaced desires that bind us to our wounds in deceptive and destructive ways. We confess the same for the communities we serve. We pray for the healing gifts of sight, voice, joy, and community and peace. Loving One, re-create us in your desire. As you promised, meet us in the inner room of life. We want to see you face to face, that we might discover ourselves again in you. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

As you remember your day, your week and your actions, what moved you and shaped you? When did you experience consolation or desolation? Fear or freedom? Integration or disintegration? When did you relax and experience the ground of Being itself?

RESOLVE

As your beloved ones who are forgiven and free, we freely forgive those who have done harm. We eagerly loose the chains of injustice that hold your children captive. We happily participate in the ongoing act of creation, expressing your lavish beauty in our daily work and play. Gracious God, because of your unending love we ask for one more grace. We ask for the grace to do and to will your good pleasure in our lives and in our world. Lord have mercy.

How is God's Spirit leading you? What specific steps might you take? What can you resolve in your spirit to do?

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us because She has anointed us to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

We pray this in the name of the Father who is for us, the Son who is with us, and the Spirit who unites us all in the never ending dance of love.

Amen