

Resources for Worship Services

THE RAINBOW
INITIATIVE



Prayers of the People

Composed by The Benedictine Way, Omaha, Nebraska

Jesus our Savior, you taught us that wherever two or three are gathered in your name, you are present among them. Be present to us Jesus, please hear our prayers as we cry out to you for justice for our LGBTQ siblings.

We pray for your people: especially for our LGBTQ siblings who are in danger anywhere in the world. Please keep our siblings safe and help them to freedom.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for your people: especially for our LGBTQ siblings who are seeking asylum in the United States. Help them to see their way to safety.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for your people: especially those in the American government who have an influence on immigration law, policy, and implementation. Help them to understand the plight of many LGBTQ persons and the need for asylum.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for your people: especially our LGBTQ siblings who are poor, hungry, and homeless because they are denied work or basic human rights. Teach us to feed and shelter one another.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for your people: especially our LGBTQ siblings who are imprisoned, tortured, or condemned to die. Teach us to liberate one another.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for your people: especially those anywhere in the world, who make or enforce laws that persecute our LGBTQ siblings, that they will repent their ways, change oppressive laws, free all those imprisoned, and accept our siblings as equal citizens with the full protection of the law, of society, and of religious organizations.

God, hear our prayer.

O God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O Lover of souls; and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

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Adapted from the Prayers of the People in The Book of Common Prayer

Additions to Form I

Add one or more of the following:

For the courage, safety, and healing of those who are attacked in this and every country because of their true gender as it has been revealed to them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the courage, safety, and healing of those who are attacked in this and every country because of who they love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the family members and loved ones of those who are attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, that they also may be comforted and strengthened in their resolve for justice, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For strength and comfort among children who suffer prejudice from their parents, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the wisdom to discern whether we are called to reach out to LGBTQ+ people who are searching for safety, and the strength to follow your call, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the open-heartedness, confidence, and humility that we must have if we are to welcome newcomers as you are calling us to do, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the ability to see that often those who are most in need also have much to contribute, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Contributors to Prayers of the People: Max Niedzwiecki, The Rainbow Initiative, Episcopal Migration Ministries; Claire Brooks, St. Anna's Episcopal Church, New Orleans, LA; The Rev. Jean N. Kuebler, Faith Lutheran Church, Erie, PA; The Rev. Deacon Kate Wisz, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Durham, NC

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Additions to Form II

Add one or more of the following:

I ask your prayers for those who are attacked in this and every country because of their true gender as it has been revealed to them.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who are attacked in this and every country because of who they love.

Silence

I ask the family members and loved ones of those who are attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender identity may be comforted and strengthened in their resolve for justice.

Silence

I ask for your strength and comfort for children who suffer prejudice from their parents.

Silence

I ask your prayers for members of this congregation to discern whether we are called to reach out to LGBTQ+ people who are searching for safety, and the strength to follow that call.

Silence

I ask your prayers for members of this congregation to have the open-heartedness, confidence, and humility that we must have if we are to welcome newcomers as you are calling us to do.

Silence

I ask your prayers for members of this congregation to have the ability to see that often those who are most in need also have much to contribute.

Silence

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Additions to Form III

Add one or more of the following:

We pray that you will grant courage, safety, and healing to those who are attacked in this and every country because of their true gender as it has been revealed to them;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray that you will grant courage, safety, and healing to those who are attacked in this and every country because of who they love;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray that children who suffer prejudice from their parents be granted your comfort and strength;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray that the family members and loved ones of those who are attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender identity may be comforted and strengthened in their resolve for justice;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Grant us the wisdom to discern whether we are called to reach out to LGBTQ+ people who are searching for safety; and if we are the ones you call, give us strength and perseverance to follow your will;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Grant us the open-heartedness, confidence, and humility that we must have if we are to welcome newcomers as you are calling us to do;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

For the ability to see that often those who are most in need also have much to contribute;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

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Additions to Form IV

Add one or more of the following:

Grant courage, safety, and healing to those who are attacked in this and every country because of their true gender as it has been revealed to them.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Grant courage, safety, and healing to those who are attacked in this and every country because of who they love.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Grant that the family members and loved ones of those who are attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender identity may be comforted and strengthened in their resolve for justice.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Grant your comfort and strength to children who suffer prejudice from their parents.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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Additions to Form IV

Continued:

Grant us the wisdom to discern whether we are called to reach out to LGBTQ+ people who are searching for safety; and if we are the ones you call, give us strength and perseverance to follow your will.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Grant us the open-heartedness, confidence, and humility that we must have if we are to welcome newcomers as you are calling us to do.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Grant us the ability to see that often those who are most in need also have much to contribute.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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Additions to Form V

Add one or more of the following:

For the courage, safety, and healing of those who are attacked in this and every country because of their true gender as it has been revealed to them, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the courage, safety, and healing of those who are attacked in this and every country because of who they love, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the comfort and strength of those who see their family members and loved ones attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, we pray to you, O Lord.

For strength and comfort among children who suffer prejudice from their parents, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the wisdom to discern whether we are called to reach out to LGBTQ+ people who are searching for safety, and the strength to follow your call, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the open-heartedness, confidence, and humility that we must have if we are to welcome newcomers as you are calling us to do, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the ability to see that often those who are most in need also have much to contribute, we pray to you, O Lord.

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Additions to Form VI

Add one or more of the following:

For all people who are persecuted and flee in search of safety;

For those who are attacked, shunned, and in need because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, wherever they might be.

For the family members and friends of those who are persecuted;

For all who suffer when they see their loved ones suffer.

For the children who suffer from the prejudice of their parents;

For those whose families reject them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For those who hear a call to help LGBTQ+ people in distress.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For the open-heartedness, confidence, and humility that we must have if we are to welcome newcomers as you are calling us to do.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For the ability to see that often those who are most in need also have much to contribute.