



Prayers of the People

Welcoming God, in our hunger, you feed us. In our thirst, you give us something to drink. When we saw ourselves as strangers, you welcomed us home in you. You called us out of our estrangement and made us one in you. As you have done to us, you call us to do for our siblings who hunger, thirst, and feel alone. Guide our bishops, priests, and all other ministers as they lead your church. Guide and strengthen us to be at work in the world you so love. In your Church, **you welcomed us.**

Welcoming God, we lift up our nation to you, our disparate peoples spanning this vast land from sea to sea. Where we see division and competing desires, you call us to see with your eyes and be unified. Lord make us aware of those that have less and spur in us to give from the abundance that you have given us. We pray for our leaders, and this season of decision for the direction this nation, for our president, the congress, and all our elected officials as they shape policies and set the tone for our communities. Align our choices with your will for the world you still are calling into being. In the work for a better nation, **you welcomed us.**

Welcoming God, we see images of so much need, of so much destruction, of a ravaged environment and we feel hopeless. Inspire us to welcome and make real a new and better world. In our small choices we multiply in our common mission. Transform us to be agents of your spirit, working towards reconciliation and wholeness wherever we may go. In our hurting world, **you welcomed us.**

Welcoming God, we lift up those in our immediate circles, our families and friends, those known to us and to you. We pray specifically for them, especially, [*insert names of those for whom prayers have been requested or whose suffering is known*]. Thank you for hearing us and helping us to share your love. In our pain and worry, **you welcomed us.**

Welcoming God, into your loving hands we commend those who have died, and have been welcomed home in you eternally [*especially* _____]. Your love opens doors, dispels darkness, and shows itself to be never ending, even through death. We abide in that hope, and one day, we trust, we will be welcomed forever in you. Even at the end and our beginning in you, **you welcome us.**

Officiant: God who welcomes and calls us to welcome, hear the prayers of your people. Drive from us any feelings of separation and into our belovedness. Inspire to be at work in your world, moving it daily to its fullness in you. Thank you for holding the door and bringing us in. *Amen*