

Prayers of the People

Intended to be used each week.

The Deacon begins by offering the following

God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6:8*
Let us, in this season of national preparation, offer our prayers and thanksgiving to Almighty God who calls us to dwell together in unity..

Let us pray: Christ our Light.
People **Shine in our hearts.**

The petitions can be prayed by one voice or the suggested two.

Voice 1 You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation; dispel the arrogance, animosity and anger that shatters the unity of your holy Church.
Voice 2 Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth, that we may be made one in faith, hope and love.

Silence

Voice 2 Christ our light.
People **Shine in our hearts.**

Voice 1 You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise; set us free us from enslavement to division, disunity and distrust in our public life and labor.
Voice 2 Illumine those in authority with the light of vision, that they may lead the peoples of the nations to greater unity and concord.

Silence

Voice 2 Christ our light.

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Voice 1 You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos.

Voice 2 Pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender and ethnicity may dissolve into one common humanity.

Silence

Voice 2 Christ our light.

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Voice 1 You who delight in the complexity of creation and the splendor of each creature; help us to delight in the diversity of the earth our island home.

Voice 2 Inspire your people to care for the earth and its creatures and repent and return when we abuse, misuse and neglect our fellow creatures.

Silence

Voice 2 Christ our light.

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Voice 1 You who call us into relationship with you and one another; renew our hearts to be people of community.

Voice 2 Knit us together to listen respectfully to one another so that all might glorify you by using our various gifts to raise up those most in need in our neighborhoods.

Silence

Voice 2 Christ our light.

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Voice 1 You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost and the least; help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

Voice 2 Shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful and the suffering, especially those we now name [_____].

Silence

Voice 2 Christ our light.

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Voice 1 You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity the souls of those who have died; welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife.

Voice 2 Shine the light of hope on our faithful dead, especially those we now name [_____].

Silence

Voice 2 Christ our light.

People **Shine in our hearts.**

Concluding Collect:

Presider Just and compassionate God, you walk with your people in humility and compassion in times of trial. You call us to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with You and each other. Set us free from the rancor of division and distrust that infect our hearts and fracture our nation; that following the Way of Jesus we may cast out fear; all for your love's sake. Amen.

Written by The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, Adapted.