

September 6, 2020

Prayers – September 6, 2020

Holy, loving God

We gather on this holiday weekend giving thanks for all who labor on our behalf. Many are readily recognized because they provide essential services – from the many varieties of medical persons to the caregivers in care facilities and to all those often overlooked who have been working overtime to keep facilities clean and sanitized. Thanks too for the variety of service personnel – police, fire, EMTs plus those who serve in a variety of governmental capacities to help our communities serve us better. Special thanks to our educators – teachers and administrators who are working diligently in new ways to safely educate students. But there are so many others whose work is not recognized – homemakers who watch over children and help make our houses home, those who are seeking work in this time of pandemic and have to move from one underpaid job to another to keep life together, those who labor in fields to gather or plant, and those who are denied employment because of their age. There are so many workers, Gracious God, whose efforts contribute to our well-being. Help us to be cognizant of the many who serve our needs who may not be named but without whom we struggle.

We pray for those whose work doesn't provide a living wage and for women whose compensation for labor is undervalued. Help us strive for justice for all workers that would allow all to know dignity in their service. For meaning and value for all- we pray to you.

We lift prayers for all who still live in the shadow of the event of 9/11 – for those who lost loved ones as well as those who have continuing health concerns. Be with our nation as we continue to heal from an event that has changed us forever. And for the people of Ambazonia in Cameroon, West Africa as they suffer a genocide.

For this church and its future – we pray for your guidance and direction. For Jeniel Smith on her birthday and for family and friends of this congregation who need your healing presence: for Jeanne and Scott's sister-in law – healing from surgeries, for Belinda in rehab in Houston, for Mark Smith as he is home recovering from a stroke, for Barbara Jenkins and Staci's friend with colon cancer. Be especially with the mother of the young man who was stabbed in South Salt Lake as she mourns his loss. We give thanks that Diane's surgery went well and pray for her future treatments and lift prayers for David and Nancy Strader and her sister Betsy Jones. Also we hold in prayer all those in care facilities especially Sid, Yarka and Trudie.

In this time of uncertain waiting, Holy One, we pray for patience and wisdom for those working on a COVID vaccine.