

Prayers for Sunday June 9 AND Wednesday June 12, 2024

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

Dear Father, thank you for finding a way through Jesus to bridge that gulf that separates us from you. Before Jesus we were dead to our sins and mistakes. We abide under the shadow of the cross, our safety forever.

Leader- With humble hearts

Congregation: we look to you for continued guidance and grace

Dear Father, help those who are carrying heavy burdens. They need your power and peace that goes beyond our understanding. Thank you for giving us peace and rest even in the hard times. Today we pray for: Becky, Beverly, Brayden, Corrine, Darla, Dave, David, Denise, Dorothy, Jaden, Jackie, James O., Jerome, Jerry, Jerry, Kristy, Larry, Nancy, Nathan, Pat, Patty, Rachel, Tracy, Scott, Will and all those we hold in our hearts.

Leader- With humble hearts

Congregation: we look to you for continued guidance and grace

Father of Life, we praise you for the beauty of creation, its richness and variety; yet through greed and ignorance we sear your world with plastic waste and throw so much away. Make us more like Jesus, treading gently on our common home, and breathe your Spirit on us, that we may care more deeply for your earth.

Leader- With humble hearts

Congregation: we look to you for continued guidance and grace

Dear Father, in heaven you invite us to come to you in prayer. Teach us Lord to take full advantage of this privilege. Give us hearts to pray for those who have yet to experience your grace.

Leader- With humble hearts,

Congregation: we look to you for continued guidance and grace

Dear Father, help us to see your hand in life's bewildering twists and knots. Speak to us so we will understand your way when we find ourselves trapped in a hard place.

Leader- With humble hearts

Congregation: we look to you for continued guidance and grace

Dear Father, walk closely with those we love so they can know your grace. Lift their burdens as only you can. Thank you for the grace and mercies we do not deserve.

Leader- With humble hearts

Congregation: we look to you for continued guidance and grace

With everlasting thanks and joy for your love and forgiveness we ask you to be with us till we meet again. This week help us to take every opportunity to be thankful for the blessings of each day. Help us to pay attention to how best we can be a gift to others. May we approach each day with SOUL – serving others, uplifting lives! We ask all in the name of Your Dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

June 9, 2024 – Wild Turkeys

I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:1-2

The wild turkeys that inhabit the landscape around my farm. Ploughshares, wandered across the yard this afternoon. There were four of them, as usual, doing their crazy turkey walk – heads bobbing and then pecking at things on the ground. They moved slowly, taking their time, even after I opened the front door and went out on the porch to watch them. They mostly ignored me, though the tom did ruffle his tail feathers in my direction. In no hurry, they were.

These big birds walk lightly upon the earth. On my treks around the farm, I often see tracks of deer, raccoons, coyotes, and other critters. But rarely turkey tracks.

As I watched them, I wondered what kind of footprints, both literal and figurative, I leave. Is it slight, like the turkeys, or more like a heavy human, sinking into soft mud? For the good of the earth, I hope it's slight. My faith calls me to earth stewardship – in particular to take care of this little plot of land that God has put in my charge for a little while.

What about in my interactions with my fellow humans, though? Am I kind and gentle and caring or heavy-handed (or footed, in this case)? Do I leave impressions in the heart or scars on the soul? Oh, how I pray that it's the former. That's because my faith calls me to human stewardship – taking care of my relationships and neighbors all around the world.

Loving Lord, teach me to walk easy with You and my fellow creatures. Amen

A story by: J Brent Bill