

**A Call for Prayer  
For Our Neighborhoods Throughout the Country  
And for All People**

***A Responsive Litany and Prayer from Philippians 4:4-8***

Reader: "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! Let your gentleness be known among all people. The Lord is at hand..."

People: In a divine design O God, you created people uniquely, crafted with intricate detail in hues of color and shape of body.

Reader: "Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God then the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

People: When it comes to people however we admit seeing what is different more than what is the same. Without a word being spoken we use color and shape, background and language, economic status and residence to be the narrow lens through which we define who is friend and who is not.

Reader: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

People: Give us then the courage O God, to look in the mirror at our own reflection. Help us to see ourselves as people gifted by your creating hand who live lives filled with both noble intention and failed deceit. Let us honestly realize the sin that is within us and be again grateful for your grace that is around us.

Reader: "Finally whatever things are true, whatever things are noble..."

People: Help us even more O God to truly see others around us inside out too, beyond the obvious external differences among us on the outside to the hearts, minds and souls we have in common as people created in your image.

Reader: "whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, ..."

People: Give us the courage O God to know enough to know that we don't know other people as well as we thought. Give us a double measure of patience and wisdom to work at understanding the people around us for who they really are.

Reader: "Whatever things are of good report..."

People: Let the first thing we see in people be the love with which you created them, the cross by which you have redeemed them and the spirit by which you mark them as your own. Call us again to build more bridges than walls in a broken and hurting world.

Reader: "If there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, think about these things."

People: Give us courage O God, to face the fears and insecurities with which we build walls between ourselves and others. Give us the wisdom and patience to work at better understanding the people whom you surround us with. Let our words and actions incarnate your love. Amen and amen!