

Gathering Words

In Every Time, In Every Place

All: In every time, in every place, among every people on Earth,
We have always been, and we will always be.

One: We are mariposa and marimacha in Spanish, Finnochio in Italian, Mahu in Tahitian,
Vom Anderen Uffer in German, Nadle in Navajo, Winkte in Sioux, Agokwa in Chippewa,
and the deity Ardhanarishvara in Hindi.

All: In every time, in every place, among every people on Earth,
We have always been, and we will always be.

One: We are the queers and the fairies, the bulldykes and bulldaggers,
all names of derision we have reclaimed by our power.
We are the priests and priestesses, the shamans and witches,
the sorcerers of Spirit who bridge many worlds.

All: In every time, in every place, among every people on Earth,
We have always been, and we will always be.

One: We are the word-bearers and word-sculptors, creators of beauty and
bearers of justice. We are Sappho and Apollo, Queen Christina and
Joan of Arc. We are Michelangelo and Audre Lorde, David and Jonathan,
Leslie Feinberg and Oscar Wilde. We are Walt Whitman and Bayard Rustin,
Judy Grahn and Adrienne Rich, we are each and every person at MCCSF.

All: In every time, in every place, among every people on Earth,
We have always been, and we will always be.

One: We are the people of purple, drag queens and drag kings,
transfolks and genderqueers, amazons and eunuchs.
We are Femmes who wear leather and proud faggots who wear lace,
we are the friends of Dorothy, and the flaming friends of God.

All: In every time, in every place, among every people on Earth
We have always been, and we will always be.

Justice Litany

[Ps 7.17, 146.7, 89.14, 106.3, 72.2, 85.11, Mic 6.8, Am 5.24]

Oh, how grateful and thankful I am to God who is so good.

God upholds the cause of the oppressed.

Justice is the foundation of God's reign.

Blessed are those who do what is right and good.

May those who govern do so justly with special care for the poor.

Love and truth will meet; justice and peace will kiss.

What does God require of us?

Only to do justice, love kindness, and live humbly.

Let justice roll on like a river.

Let righteousness flow like a mighty stream. Amen.

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Prayer of Reconciliation

God of forgiveness and understanding, our source of salvation and our inspiration to goodness, thank you for seeking out and calling each of us by name. Thank you for seeing us for who we truly are—your beloved. Transform us with your presence that we may possess hearts of compassion and spirits of generosity, sharing with our neighbors the bounty and blessings of your hands. Show us how to see beneath the surface to the truth and longings of each other's hearts. Prepare our hearts to love and receive those who are separated from us—where there is distance, bring closeness; where there is division, bring reconciliation; where there is conflict, bring understanding. Let the peace of God rest, rule, and abide with us that we may become the beloved community you have called us to be. In the name of all that is holy and good. Amen.

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Litany of Community Solidarity

One: God of Creation, let your light shine on all the inhabitants of this earth that we may know and celebrate that you have formed and created us in life-giving and life-receiving oneness and harmony;

Many: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of creation.

One: God of Grace, grant us the gift of inward happiness and the serenity that comes from being in relationship with you and your creation;

Many: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of grace.

One: God of Life, open our eyes that we may see the handiwork of your hands and good things in unexpected places that inspire us to celebrate our lives and the sacred ties of kindred, friendship, and love;

Many: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of life.

One: God of Love, fill our hearts with light and grace and hope that cast out the spirits of fear, anxiety, and division and inspire in each of us a spirit of community, compassion, and selflessness;

Many: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of love.

One: God of Justice, endow each of us with a spirit that recognizes the worth, dignity, and equality of all human beings and inspires us to always stand on the side of the poor, the hungry and the oppressed;

Many: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of justice.

One: God of Peace, prompt us always to pursue community and reconciliation as we affirm one another in our different religious, cultural, and social beliefs and expressions;

Many: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of peace.

One: God of mercy, rescue and restore your creation from neglect, violence, and persecution and bring healing and wholeness wherever there is pain and darkness;

Many: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of mercy.

One: God of Hope, bless us with brave hearts and steady nerves as we speak truth to power and challenge the scourge of hatred, prejudice, and discrimination; and give us the strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience;

All: Source of our being, hear our prayer and bless us with your gift of hope. May we seek always to be united as one family under God committed to being reconciled and standing together in the belief that love and compassion have greater power than hatred and division. In all of your many and holy names we pray. Amen.

Adapted by Rev. DeWayne L. Davis from *The One World Book of Prayer: A Treasury of Prayers from Around the World* compiled by Juliet Mabey.

Prayer for Global Justice

For those who are in danger because they are gay or lesbian,
for those who work for marriage equality,
for those whose lives are threatened by AIDS,
for those who are terrorized, marginalized or oppressed because they are women in a male dominated society,
for those who do not fit neatly into gender binaries,
for those who suffer lack while others enjoy unearned privilege,
for those who are hated because of the color of their skin,
for those who live in fear as war wages around them,
for those who flee difficult circumstances without finding welcome in their land of refuge,
for all who long for safe nights, plenty of food, education, opportunity, a chance to love, or the dignity that all humans deserve, let us pray.

Spirit of life and liberty, hope and healing, peace and possibilities, we call upon you to move upon human hearts throughout the world. May the human family embrace a desire for peace and plenty, hope and health, joy and justice for all people. Amen.

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