



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 04.21.24

Almighty Creator, we marvel at the exquisite design of this Earth for the flourishing of all the living things You have created. We lament and repent of the misuse and abuse of this creation. Cause us always to remember that the Earth and all of its creatures are the object of your redemptive work through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Empower us to partner with You in the reconciliation of all things, give us wisdom and stamina for the task, and be glorified as your church declares You—on Earth Day and throughout the year—as Creator and Redeemer.

Lord, we have altered the climate of this very good Earth in ways that have brought disaster to the inhabitants of many places. Bring needed rains to those areas—like Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—that are experiencing ongoing drought and famine. Cause rains to cease in those areas facing floodwaters, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Use your church to address the needs for food, shelter, and rescue of the people in these areas. As at your crucifixion the veil of the temple was torn apart, Lord Jesus break down the walls of nationality, race, and politics that so often prevent us from meeting the needs of suffering people around the world in their moments of crisis.

Father God, You have shown us by your Word that you have a heart for displaced people, for refugees and immigrants. Give us that same heart, and grant us wisdom to bring your love and compassion and needed resources to the hundreds of thousands living in migrant camps at the northern border of each country in Central America.

Prince of Peace, we desire to offer a glimpse of your in-breaking kingdom through the Guns-to-Gardens events of next Friday and Saturday. Protect all of those involved. Grant us good fellowship with the brothers and sisters from First Presbyterian that will be joining us. Holy Spirit, guide our interactions with everyone present, particularly those opposed to that to which You have called us in this undertaking. Continue to form us into peacemakers in the broken and violent world that You are redeeming.

Great Physician, heal the brokenness within our own church and communities, whether physical, emotional, spiritual, mental, or relational. You know our needs, and from You alone comes healing and restoration. We have always found You faithful, and we trust You to meet us in our needs today.

Amen.