

These prayers have been composed by Julene Hawkins, a Christus Rex Student Leader and UND Senior.

Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for the whole human family, and for all creation.

God of Creation, as the seasons begin to change once again, we rejoice in the beauty of transformation. We pray that you transform our hearts and minds to see the impact we have on the world around us. As climate change continues to amplify in almost every region of the World, be with us in times of pain and struggle and help us to make the needed changes on both personal and systemic levels. Allow our leaders to see the great need for environmental justice and help us to do our part to preserve and protect the wonderful gifts you have provided us with, so that our global neighbors and future generations may experience them too.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Radical God, allow our hearts to redefine our personal definition of our neighbor. Allow us to welcome the stranger, the immigrant, or refugees and give them a chance to flourish rather than automatically assuming our preconceived notions. Grant us Grace for the times when we could not love our neighbors as ourselves and help us see the need for difference and variety in our world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Present God, as the world continues to be plagued with overwhelming issues and we feel insignificant, remind us that we are not here to solve every situation. When we feel doubt, hopelessness, and overwhelmed, show us what we are capable of. Let the issues that fill our hearts with the most pain, fuel our passion for change and let us be advocates for the oppressed.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we acknowledge that there is a lot of pain in our world and in our own hearts. Heal us, oh God, of all the animosity, hatred, guilt, grief, and suffering we put ourselves through on the daily. Help us to forgive ourselves so that we can begin to forgive one another.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Harmony, more than anything else, today we pray for peace. Peace for our hearts, peace for our neighbors, peace for our environment, and peace all over the chaos. Help all your creation know that they are loved, enough, called, and wonderful.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We now offer our silent prayers (wait 30-45 secs)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all of our prayers in your wide embrace, most gracious God, through your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.