

A Valentine's Week Prayer for Our World

Oh, God, you who are Love, have mercy upon us.

All around us, we see the antithesis of love:

migrants deported
militia seizing power
homes and livelihoods blasted into piles of rubble.

In your generous love, you offer hospitality to all who will come,
setting a table before us in the presence of our enemies.

May your love, which prioritizes those most in need,
shape our hearts so we, too,

set tables for shared meals instead of deporting,
love instead of despising or ignoring.

Remind us again that what we do to the poor, the weak, the foreigner,
—in other countries and our own neighborhoods—
we do to you.

Your love is patient and kind, not boastful or proud.

You became small to make us great.

Mold our hearts so we, too, are patient, kind, and humble,
stooping to serve to make others great.

Your love is not self-seeking, not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs.

It does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.

May we, too, seek the good of others.

Give us patience and grace so we don't quickly rise to anger
yet preserve us, too, from passivity in the face of evil and lies.

For your love is active:

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

You will not stop until you bring justice on earth.

In this we rejoice.

Where we are blind, let us see as you see.

Where we are wrong, may your love lead us to repentance.

Where we are complacent, awaken us to pray and speak and act.

We aren't all on the front lines of earthly government

but we've all been given direct access to the King who is over all earthly kings,
the One in whom ultimate power is manifested both in perfect love
and in the commitment to make all things right in the end.

We can all pray.