

Pride Sunday: Prayers of the People

Form One:

[source: The Reverend Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's, Tustin]

In the silence after each petition, you are invited to add your own prayers, silently or aloud:

In silence and peace, I invite your prayers of thanks, remembering those whose courage has made a difference in the world.

We remember Dr. Pauli Murray, scholar and civil rights lawyer.

We remember Harvey Milk and the hope he offered us.

We remember the Philadelphia 11 and the Washington 4, the first women ordained in our church.

We remember Dr. Louie Crew Clay, founder of Integrity.

We give thanks today for the bravery and faithfulness of the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, and those who have followed him into the House of Bishops.

Silence. On whose shoulders do you stand?

In silence and peace, I invite your prayerful intention for those who are suffering, in body, mind, or spirit:

Silence

In silence and peace, I invite your prayerful intention for members of our LGBTQ community who struggle for acceptance and inclusion in their families, in their workplaces, in public and in private.

Silence

In silence and peace, I invite your prayers for communities that have been violated by violence; for our neighbors struggling for food, shelter, and dignity; and for our efforts to be loving neighbors and steadfast friends who walk beside them.

Silence

In silence and peace, I invite your prayers for the unfathomable losses felt by the world because of the pandemic. We remember the places in the world where violence drives people from their homes; where people struggle for clean water, sanitation, and land to grow food.

Silence

In silence and peace, I invite your prayers of thanks for our loving God, who has created us in Their image. We give thanks for Jesus, our brother, our mother, our friend. We give thanks for the resilience, hope, and joy we find among our LGBTQ+ siblings and allies.

Please name aloud those who have helped you to see the divine image in yourself:

Silence

In silence and peace, I invite your prayerful intention for yourself. May the Spirit open your heart to love and grace.

Silence

Presider: Creator God, Holy one, Maker of love and source of joy: we give you thanks for the infinite variety of your creation. We bless you that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and that we are your beloved rainbow tribe. Grant us the courage to tell our truth, to honor ourselves, to love our neighbors, and to share your grace with a world aching for healing. We pray because of Jesus, who shows us the way. Amen.

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Form Two:

[source: The Reverend Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's, Tustin]

Intercessor

We give thanks today for our lives; for the glory of our humanity, reflecting the glory of God; for the opportunity to celebrate both our unique identities and our belonging in the Body of Christ.

Gracious God,

We give you thanks and praise.

We give thanks today for those who came before us: for the drag queens of color who said “no” to oppression at Stonewall;

Thank you, God.

For those who risked careers and families to come out and speak their truth;

Thank you, God.

For the writers, the singers, the dancers, the entertainers who came out publicly; for everyone who let us know we were not alone;

Thank you, God.

For all the firsts: the first out gay athletes; the first out gay politicians; the first lesbians ordained to the priesthood; the first trans folks on television; the first astronauts, business leaders, entertainers, artists, clergy, everyone whose coming out made ours easier to accomplish.

Thank you, God.

For the pioneers for LGBTQ people in our church; for Dr. Louie Clay, founder of Integrity; for those who have worked tirelessly at every General Convention for our full inclusion in the church; for the Bishop's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Ministry, the first LGBTQ organization in the diocese; and for GLEAM, continuing the work.

Thank you, God.

We pray today for those who are still targeted for their gender identity, sexual orientation, or perceived difference; we pray for those who have been hurt, bullied, or killed. We remember:

Matthew Shepherd

The 49 who died at Pulse in Orlando, and the 58 who survived

Our transgender siblings who have been assaulted and killed

Those who risk arrest and death for their orientation or gender identity

Those we have lost to AIDS

And those we now name, aloud or silently:

Silence for petitions

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray today for the Episcopal Church, and for our witness to your love.

Help us to answer your call to proclaim your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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Form Three:

[source: All Saints Church, Pasadena]

Minister: God, who made us in your infinite creativity, you have chosen the spectrum of the rainbow to be the sign of your blessing and protection.

People: We pray for your children in the rains of inequality and oppression, that they would see your blessing.

Minister: On this Pride Sunday, we remember those who have blazed the trail for LGBTQ+ equality and justice.

People: We pray for those who continue to fight for full equality under the law.

Minister: We pray for those who continue to live under the threat of intimidation, oppression, or violence in our communities because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or the color of their skin.

People: God of life, help us to see you in all forms of identity and expression.

Minister: We pray for LGBTQ+ children and youth who struggle with isolation and shame, who have no safe space to retreat to, or mentors who can teach and guide them through their journey of self-discovery.

People: Empower us to walk in the way of love, to welcome the excluded and care for the vulnerable, to work for justice, and rejoice in the spirit of life.