

Prayers from our Pastors

Giving God,

You give and give and give and give and give. I stand in awe of your provision.

I want to be a giver like you. I want to be generous in spirit, generous with words of kindness, generous with deeds of service, generous with prayers for others, generous with forgiveness, generous with the resources you have provided me, generous with my witness for Christ, and generous with my praise for you. Show me how to live the generosity you have shown to me. In the name of the greatest gift you give, Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

Dr. Tom Pace

Dear God,

We come before you with open hearts because we understand that you have blessed us beyond measure. We have seen your goodness in the ways that you have abundantly provided for us and our families. Forgive us for the times we have forgotten that everything we have is a gift from you. Help us to continually share our gifts with others and share in the joy of giving. We pray this in the name of the living God, from whom all blessing flow, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Rev. Yesly Antu

(Spanish)

Querido Dios,

Venimos ante ti con un corazón abierto porque entendemos que nos has bendecido sin medida. Hemos visto tu bondad en la forma en que has provisto abundantemente para nosotros y para nuestras familias. Perdónanos por las veces que hemos olvidado que todo lo que tenemos es un regalo tuyo. Ayúdanos a compartir continuamente nuestras bendiciones con los demás y compartir el gozo de dar. Oramos esto en el nombre del Dios viviente, de quien fluye toda bendición, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo.

Amén.

Rev. Yesly Antu

Generous God,
Dwell in us that we might be generous of heart, spirit, and compassion. Root us in your self-giving love and remind us that we belong to you, our maker. There is so much need before us in our community, city, and world. Bear that burden with and for us. We want to be your hands and feet, and we also want to rely on you. Ground us in who you are and who you want us to be in this season, that we might be your people.
Amen.
Rev. Colin Bagby

(Swahili)
EE Mungu uliye mtuma Kristo akae mioyoni mwetu kwa njia ya Imani
Tukiota mizizi katika upendo; tunakuomba utupe fahamu Pamoja na
watakatifu ili tuuone upana wako na urefu. Hata kimo chako tunapo jitoa kwa
utukufu wako.
Amina.
Rev. Aoci Elize

O God who sent Christ so that he dwells in our hearts through faith
As we rooted and grounding in love; we pray that you give us knowledge and
comprehend together with the saints so that we may see your breadth and
length height and depth. As we dedicate for your glory. In Jesus name we
pray.
Amen.
Rev. Aoci Elize

Jesus,
I must admit that in the daily hustle and bustle, I forget how you have shown
up with extravagant generosity. Rushing through traffic, I forget how you've
always gotten me to where I need to be at the right time. When I am rapidly
trying to clear my inbox I forget how you have given me exactly what I need to
do the work you've set before me. When my shoulders begin to ache at the
end of the day I forget that you've always offered to carry my burdens. Thank
you for sharing yourself with me, those I love most, and the world. Sometimes
fear can tell us that giving everything to you won't leave enough for us. I won't
have enough energy, time, support, or love. Remind us of the folks in the
Bible who gave you so much and never were left without care, provision, and
salvation- Moses, Esther, Ruth, the Disciples, Mary, Paul- The list is long. In
this moment would you teach me a new way of extravagant love and
generosity? Help me to loosen my grip on the things that are keeping me from
opening up to your will. Please continue to bless the ministries of St. Luke's so

that we may live out the Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission.
Amen.

Rev. Michelle Manuel

God,

We confess that we are too easily we are distracted from what really matters. We want to have a high impact life, so we strive for control and we strive to make a name for ourselves. We forget that we are supposed to be making a name for you. We make every effort to protect our loved ones and ourselves, operating out of fear or a scarcity mindset. We are well meaning, mostly, but sometimes we choose paths that lead us away from you. So today we acknowledge our sin and confess our shortcomings. We put ourselves and our lives and our resources in your hands. With humility we ask you to help us strive for the greater gifts and to show us a still more excellent way. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is merciful and generous with all of us.

Amen.

Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears

Lord God,

We stand in your presence by invitation from the One who loves without condition. We give thanks that your power is not limited by time or dimension. Your love is boundless and without comparison. Knowing Christ as essential to our faith journey gives each of us the assurance we need. When we give generously to your kingdom agenda, we are the benefactors who stand to receive far more than we could possibly give. Help us to live with a generous spirit.

In Christ, Amen.

Rev. Cliff Ritter

Generous God,

All that we have and all that we are is a gift from You. We experience Your generosity in big ways—Your presence with us, Your grace toward us, Your forgiveness of us, Your love for us, Your breath in our lungs. We experience Your generosity in small ways, too—in the reassuring hug of a family member, in the words of encouragement from a dear friend, in the sensation of just-right-fullness after a delicious meal. Teach us how to reflect Your generosity in the way we spend our time, share our gifts, pour into our relationships, and focus our energy each day. We are Yours, God. It's all Yours.

Amen.

Rev. Amy Sumrall