

**PRAY
AND ACT
FOR
PEACE**



Pondering Power

Lord, in this world full of joy and celebration, of injustice and suffering, we offer our confession to you.

We, rightly and justly, offer relief to those who suffer from natural and unnatural disasters but miss the structures that cause so much additional suffering.

We easily overlook the racism, sexism, classism and other oppressions inherent in our systems—social, political, denominational—that silently create undue advantages.

We fail to challenge the powers and principalities of the world—they seem too big, too imposing, and we feel too small.

God, creator of our interlocking, interrelated world, have mercy.

We too often seek power, without seeing that it can come at the expense of others.

We believe proper control brings justice, without seeing that yours is the only proper control.

Because relationships are difficult, we craft solutions without truly understanding needs.

Christ, who placed the needs and salvation of others before your own, have mercy.

We dwell on the faults of others rather than our own shortcomings. We hold grudges and cling to slights instead of seeking reconciliation and forgiveness.

We fall in love with our own leadership, sometimes failing to offer opportunities to others with divine gifts and callings.

Holy Spirit, which offers us guidance and inspiration, have mercy.

As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, we praise you, God, for your power that gives us strength in our weaknesses. May we use that power for justice and peace.

Amen.

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