

Prayers for Mending, December 3, 2012:

Lord of all,

Break down the barriers of fear and suspicion that divide us.

Help us to see all of our brothers and sisters as brothers and sisters in you and to embrace each other in reconciling fellowship.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all.

Amen

Prayers for Mending, December 4, 2012:

Lord of all,

Help us to build bridges of love and justice for each one of our brothers and sisters.

Gather us hand to hand, heart to heart.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all.

Amen.

Prayers for Mending, December 5, 2012:

Lord of all,

We know that "nothing in all creation can separate your children from your love in Christ."

Help us not to try to live inside that "nothing."

Grant us ears to hear and hearts to feel your love for all.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all.

Amen.

Prayers for Mending, December 6, 2012:

Lord of all,

We lift up to you all those who have felt hurt and harmed by your church. Open our hearts to your will that we might be instruments of your healing in their lives.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayers for Mending, December 7, 2012:

Lord of all,

It is too easy to look upon "the other" and see all the differences. Help us to see what all your children hold in common. Help us to see that you have given life and breath to each and all. Turn us away from blaming "them" for what is wrong with us.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 8, 2012:

Lord of all,

We lift up families that have been torn apart today. For those who are wounded by those closest to them and for those who gave the wounds, we pray that your healing may touch them and restore them.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayers for Mending, December 9, 2012:

Lord of all,

We know that you must look at all these denominations and weep. Purify us and cleanse us of our love of factions. Take away our need to divide. Help us to see your image in each one, especially those whose faith is so much like our own.

In the name of Jesus who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 10, 2012:

Lord of all,

In a world fragmented by warring factions and rampant injustice, we pray for peace and goodwill over all the earth.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 11, 2012:

Lord of all,

In a church fragmented by arguments and stored-up animosities, we pray for broken hearts that bind us together as your body.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 12, 2012:

Lord of all,

In our own selves, kept separate from each other and from you by our waywardness and sin,

we pray for contrite spirits, for your healing and cleansing touch within, that we might truly act like your children.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 13, 2012:

Lord of all,

We lift up the people in our congregations that we see every week... and try to avoid.

Open our eyes to see these folks as your unique and uniquely gifted children. Help us to shower them with the mercy, forgiveness, and love that you have showered us with.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 14, 2012:

Lord of all,

We lift up those people who don't think the way we do, who don't believe the same things we do. We do not pray that you will change them to match us. We pray that you will change our hearts to appreciate them.

Give us ears to hear their concerns.

And, if we cannot hold their ideas in our heads, at least let us hold them in our hearts.
In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,
Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 15, 2012:

Lord of all,

"The crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth."

Are our ways crooked because we swerve to avoid those you placed in our paths? Are our ways rough because we keep placing stumbling blocks for others?

Give us the heart of John and Isaiah, to long for and work for straight and smooth ways that connect us to you and your people.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 16, 2012:

Lord of all,

You have taken away all judgments against us.

Help us in turn to take away our judgments against others.

Let us be your agents of forgiveness and the joy it brings.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 17, 2012:

Lord of all,

You will "recover the lame and gather the outcast,
and change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth."

Let us be instruments of that gathering and recovery,
not just "making a place," but acting on the surety that our fellowship is less without them.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 18, 2012:

Lord of all,

"With joy we draw water from the wells of salvation."

Help us to draw deep from those wells,
that we may share the gift of your grace with all.

As you have graciously given to us,
let us graciously pass it on to all.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 19, 2012:

Lord of all,

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,"

Help us to focus our minds on these things.

Help us to think not upon what separates us and on our differences,
but on what we hold in common, on what draws us together.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,
Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 20, 2012:

Lord of all,

We know that you want us to "bear good fruit."

Today, let us bear the fruit of love for each other.

Let us bear the fruit of peace between us.

Let us bear the fruit of joy in the true fellowship of your children.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 21, 2012:

Lord of all,

Engrave on our hearts the Good News that through the power of God, love can conquer all
hatred.

Infuse our spirits with yours that we may love in the face of every inequity.

In if, in the doing, we suffer as you did,

let us face that suffering as you did,

looking to the glory that is to come when love fully overcomes.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 22, 2012:

Lord of all,

We know that there are still those wandering in the wilderness,
looking for a place of peace and rest.

You who gave water from the rock and manna from heaven,
give us hearts and arms that open to them.

Let us say in truth "Here is your home, with us."

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 23, 2012:

Lord of all,

As a shepherd, you have gathered us into your fold.

You reminded us that there are other sheep in other folds.

When they come to us, help us to realize that they too have heard your voice.

Let us greet them as sisters and brothers in reconciling fellowship.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 24, 2012:

Lord of all,

How could there be no room for you in the inn?

And yet, how many times has there been no room for the "least," the orphan, the widow, the outcast?

As our anger burns at the innkeeper, turn our eyes inward, to see how we have not been open to your children that you have sent to us for care and fellowship.

Open our hearts that we may welcome not just the child of Bethlehem, but all your children.

Then we can sing with the angels

"Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among all people, with whom God is pleased."

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 25, 2012:

Lord of all,

We remember that Mary had to go to Elizabeth to find a welcome place.

Give us the spirit of Elizabeth to recognize greet those who are holding you within them with joy as beloved kindred.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

How silently, how silently

The wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts

The blessings of God's heaven.

No ear may hear His coming,

But in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him still,

The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem

Descend to us, we pray

Cast out our sin and enter in

Be born to us today

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell

O come to us, abide with us

Our Lord Emmanuel

Prayer for Mending, December 26, 2012:

Lord of all,

You have said:

"You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult,

And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire."

Help us to see that you have chosen us, as your hands and voices,

to see that this is done.

Awaken us to the yokes of burden and rods of oppression that are still in our midst, especially those which we ourselves carry.

Cleanse us from our blood-guilt and purify us to the task of rebuilding, restoring, and reconciling.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,
Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 27, 2012:

Lord of all,

We remember the joy we felt when we first heard the good news of your salvation. We remember the thrill as we heard "Your God reigns!"

And yet... and yet...

the ends of the earth have not yet seen your salvation.

Give us strength of heart and voice,

to carry that Good News over the mountains and the seas,
until all nations shout joyfully together.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,
Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 28, 2012:

Lord of all,

Open the eyes of our hearts,

that we will not judge merely by what we see.

Unstop the ears of our spirits,

that we will not decide merely by what we hear.

"But with righteousness let us decide for the poor,

And with fairness for the afflicted of the earth."

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,
Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 29, 2012:

Lord of all,

We know that in your realm the wolf will dwell with the lamb,

And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,

The cow and the bear will graze together.

Their young will lie down together."

In anticipation of the coming of your realm,

let Disciple dwell with Presbyterian.

Let people of all faiths learn to speak peaceably with each other.

Let political parties share meals together in peace.

And especially, let us raise up our young without the warring, factional, antagonistic ways we ourselves embraced.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,
Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 30, 2012:

Lord of all,

As we're "putting away anger, wrath, malice, and slander," let us also put away the more subtle ways that we treat our neighbors and your children as less than ourselves. Let us put away pettiness, self-centeredness, bias, and just plain hard-headed, hard-heartedness. Help us to realize that where there "is not Greek and Jew, slave and free," that there is always, only "us" and no "them."

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,
Amen.

Prayer for Mending, December 31, 2012:

Lord of all,

from "bearing one another," turn us to embracing one another;

from "forgiving one another," turn us to truly loving one another.

And as the peace of Christ rules in our hearts,

we will truly become one body.

In the name of Jesus, who died for us all,

Amen.

These prayers were a part of our third-year emphasis on Mending, Tending, and Extending the nets in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Key 3 duties of network are:

...mending, tending, and extending the nets in the name of Christ.

This means we:

1. work toward reconciliation and healing in relationships (**mending**);
2. look for productive and peaceful and win-win ways, not destructive ways to manage differences in relationships (**tending**), and
3. are always reaching to connect with people who are yearning for connection (**extending**).

