

Prayer for Tending, January 1, 2013:

Lord of love,

We struggle to find the path that brings life and growth.

Often enough, we are only just able to do that for ourselves.

Widen our perspective and infuse us with your creativity,

that we might see the path that brings good for all.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 2, 2013:

Lord of Love,

We tend to think of most of life as though it were a "zero sum game," in which one must lose so that another can win.

Show us the vastness of the life you bring,

that in it's ever-widening circles, we can find the way of peace and joy for all.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 3, 2013:

Lord of love,

You have told us to "put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

Create in us, not the unity that comes from having to agree on all things, nor the unity the comes from all of us thinking the same way.

Create in us, the unity that comes from loving each other, with all our differences -- loving even and especially that which is unlike ourselves.

until the time when love will permeate our beings and we will no longer need to put it on.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 4, 2013:

Lord of love,

In the best of times, we find work for our hands and minds that is a joy for us to do and accomplishes good in it's doing.

Keep us mindful that, for other gifts and talents, there is other work, as much a joy to those who do it, as is ours.

Open our minds to the truth of your diverse body,

that we might do whatever we do, in word or deed,

in the name of the Lord Jesus, supporting all those others.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 5, 2013:

Lord of love,

You have given us two eyes,  
that through the distance between them,  
and the bringing of their perspectives together,  
we can see depth, context, and relation.

Help us to appreciate the different perspectives in others.

Teach us how to bring these perspectives together,  
valuing and incorporating the differences,  
to bring greater depth to our understanding.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 6, 2013:

Lord of love,

Let us not be like Herod,  
who, when a new and different thing came into his world,  
sought to destroy it, to retain his seeming control.

Let us be more like the wise men,  
who, when a new and different thing came into their world,  
sought it out, to learn more of it,  
even though the coming of the Christ certainly changed their world.

Let us embrace the different ways and the different people,  
that bring your presence into our world.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 7, 2013:

Lord of love,

You have told us to "arise and shine" and that, as a result, "nations will come to  
our light."

Let us rise above the pettiness of pretending we are rising by dragging others  
down.

Let us rise above the covetousness of thinking that gain only comes from  
another's loss.

Then our light will truly shine.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 8, 2013:

Lord of love,

Your prophets have always cried for justice,

for vindication of the afflicted, for compassion for the poor and needy.

Help us to see that those things can never be as long as we think that giving needs to ride aside taking; as long as we think that in order for one to have, another must have not.

Help us to find the ways that lift up all.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 9, 2013:

Lord of love,

As you taught Paul and Peter that your realm of love was wide enough to encompass "even the gentiles,"

Let us see that your love is never diminished when it is shared in ever-widening circles.

Let us see that the Holy Spirit is given in wild extravagance that we will never fully comprehend.

Let us see our brothers and sisters in Christ, even when they appear in the most impossible places.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 10, 2013:

Lord of love,

You have warned us that the first will be last and the last first.

Help us to turn aside from our striving to be first.

Help us to embrace the brothers and sisters that journey along-side of us.

Help us to realize that it isn't about first and last, but about all of us having a place in your realm.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen.

Prayer for Tending, January 11, 2013:

Lord of love,

You came into this world to be with us, to create a way of reconciliation between God and humanity.

In doing so, you showed us, once and for all, that being in relationship is more important than being right.

Open our eyes and hearts to how we can live this out in our own lives.

Show us how to live in relationship first and always.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 12, 2013

Lord of love,

Through Paul, you tell us that "God would use the church to show the powers and authorities in the spiritual world that God has many different kinds of wisdom."

Help us not to think that our kind of wisdom is the only kind.

Help us to recognize those other types of wisdom when we hear and see them, especially when they come from sources we don't expect and weren't looking for wisdom to come from.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 13, 2013:

Lord of love,

You who brought the scattered sons and daughters back from exile,

You who brought your people from east, west, north, and south together,

You who created each to bring honor to you,

Open our eyes to see your likeness and to hear your voice

as you speak through diversity of form, thought, and manner.

Open our minds to see your ways as they come from all the varied people you have brought together with us.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 14, 2013

Lord of love,

When the apostles learned that the Samaritans had received your word, they sent Peter and John to assure that they'd also receive the Holy Spirit.

So let us, when we encounter the seeds that you've sown so thoroughly and pervasively, growing up in places we didn't expect,

Open ourselves to share the richness of your grace that we know with those others,

and, in turn, be enriched by them sharing with us.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

(Today is the Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr)

Prayer for Tending, January 15, 2013

Lord of love,

As we remember Martin Luther King Jr,  
who gave his life to bring equal rights to people of color,  
Infuse in us that same Spirit which empowered him  
to know that embracing the rights of one  
does not decrease the rights of others;  
to know that recognizing your image in one  
increases our ability to recognize it in all.  
Help us to see, to celebrate, and to lift up  
all people, who are, each and every one, your dear children.  
In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 16, 2013

Lord of love,

As John recognized in his own cousin,  
a gift that would carry the Good News further than he could himself,  
So let us see in others,  
the gifts that will bring your love and grace  
into places we haven't yet seen and possibly haven't even dreamed of.  
Give us the grace to not only tolerate,  
but celebrate and support those ministries of our "cousins" in the faith.  
In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 17, 2013

Forgive us Lord, for often choosing jealousy and animosity rather than confidence  
and respect.

Open our hearts to the words you are speaking to us through our "unlikely" and  
different brothers and sisters.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 18, 2013

Lord of love,

Forgive us Lord, for often choosing isolation and refusing to be a blessing for each  
other.

Open our minds to how we can support the ministries and work of people who  
move in different circles than we do.

Help us to see how they are also being your servants in ways that we cannot (or  
will not).

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 19, 2013

Lord of love,

Forgive us Lord, for preferring our divisions to your unity.

We have pushed you away in order to underlie our factions.

Melt our hearts and mold your church in the unity that the One Spirit brings.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 20, 2013

Lord of love,

Your light gives light to each of us.

Help us to celebrate that light as we see it reflected in others.

Help us to realize that your light is not diminished,

but rather increased, by being shared in ever larger circles.

Help us to rejoice as your light comes to us,

reflected in your your children,

even and especially those we have trouble recognizing.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 21, 2013

Lord of love,

As we see the incredible variety of gifts you have lavishly poured out on your children everywhere,

remind us that it is the One Spirit and the One Lord which they all serve.

Give us faithfulness to give back freely of those gifts you have given us.

Not only that. Give us openness to others to embrace the gifts they bring as well.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 22, 2013

Lord of love,

We know that "there are different gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit" and that "There are many ways to serve the same Lord."

Give us eyes that can see the wondrous interwoven fabric that is the Church being blessed by all these gifts working in concert.

Not only that. Give us discernment to help each and all find their way into fuller and more complete service together.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 23, 2013

Lord of love,

The Psalmist said "Your love is a treasure,  
and everyone finds shelter under your wings."

Help us to realize how broad and wide  
and encompassing those wings are,

that we not feel threatened by the others who share your shelter.

Not only that, but fill us with your outstretched Spirit,

that we might meet those brothers and sisters with outstretch arms.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 24, 2013

Lord of love,

Help us to realize, in a world that is longing  
for signs of healing and hope,

that they will never believe your message,  
without the sure sign of unity among us.

Melt our hearts and mold our minds,

that we may truly represent the Good News of your love,  
freely given to all persons.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 25, 2013

Lord of love,

Turning water into wine at a wedding

strikes us as an odd way to begin a ministry.

Help us to recognize signs of your giving abundance  
especially when they come to us from unexpected directions.

Give us open hearts and minds to embrace your ministries  
wherever and by whomever they come.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,

Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 26, 2013

Lord of love,

Our world is upside-down.

We think that, in order for us to gain,  
someone else must lose.

We think that, in order for us to thrive,  
someone else must have less.

We think that, in order for us to do what we see as right,  
someone else must be prevented from doing what they see as right.

Turn our hearts and minds right-side-up.

Show us how giving freely can satisfy all,  
over and above and want.

Show us how doing right supports all who desire to do right.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 27, 2013

Lord of love,

the Psalmist tells us that your message reaches  
all the earth, and travels around the world.

Help us not to hinder the spread of your Good News  
by thinking that we own it and control its path.

Move us as you move your message,  
to take bold new direction

and embrace new-found brothers and sisters.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 28, 2013

Lord of love,

We remember that Jesus' opening of his ministry,  
to tell the Good News, to announce freedom,  
to give sight and end suffering,  
was not well-received by his first hearers.

Let us not be among those who perpetuate  
poverty, bondage, blindness, and suffering,  
because we don't recognize the ones who  
come to overturn it.

Rather, open our minds and hearts to receive gratefully  
the unusual people you send to us,  
who bring your scriptures to fulfillment.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen



Prayer for Tending, January 29, 2013

Lord of love,

Through Paul, you reminded us that

"God's Spirit baptized each of us and made us  
part of the body of Christ."

We know that some of those other parts look different,  
respond differently, and do different things than we do.

Remind us again of how necessary and vital they are  
in doing your work in this world.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 30, 2013

Lord of love,

Save us from thinking that everyone needs to serve you  
in the same way that we serve you.

Save us from knowing that ours is the right way  
and thus, theirs must be not-so-right.

Lift the scales from our eyes that cause us to see enemies  
to be persecuted

where there are only fellow children of God  
to be loved.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
Amen

Prayer for Tending, January 31, 2013

Lord of love,

Create from us, a body of peace.

A life-giving structure

which shows what love is, simply by functioning together;

A healing touch

which transforms scars of injury into bonds of love;

A faithful presence

which brings hope to those who despair;

A shining light

which brings understanding to warring factions.

In the name of Jesus, who brought us abundant life,  
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**).

