



Repent (Matthew 3:2)

Lord, we need to repent and seek your forgiveness! We are tearing your world apart. Our choices are hurting our world neighbors, the planet we all call home, and ourselves, yet we ignore or deny the damage we do. We too often forget the lessons our ancestors tried to teach us and we ignore the impact our choices will have on future generations. We are

allowing our own selfishness and fear to dominate everything. We are putting ourselves first and ignoring the people around us and their needs, especially if we think of them as different from ourselves. We are closing our minds and our hearts to those with whom we disagree and putting ideology before compassion and people. Greed is allowing the quest for personal comfort, wealth, or prestige to put everything else far down on our priority list including other people, the natural world we all depend on, and even your teaching on how we are to live. When what you call us to do conflicts with what we want, we treat your commandments as mere suggestions that can be ignored when it suits us. Lord, stop us in our tracks and open our ears and hearts to hear your voice calling us back to you and to our role as stewards, caregivers, and bearers of your Good News.

This week pray for:

On the 21st we observed the International Day of Prayer for Peace. This year celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are called to renew efforts to work for human rights through prayer and action. Make this a focus for your ongoing prayers and actions. The human rights of people here and around the world continue to be threatened by governments and other groups that too often devalue people when it suits their purposes. Find the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at: <http://www.standup4humanrights.org/en/declaration.html> There is a worship resource: An Ecumenical Prayer calendar available at: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle>

Those forced to flee their homes by violence or disaster. The current American government has ended temporary protective status (TPS) for people from most war or disaster ravaged countries. TPS is the provision that allows people to stay in the US and work until it is safe for them to return home. Despite the need the US government intends not to give such help to anyone, even though their home countries cannot accommodate their return, or there is a good chance they may die if they return home.

Palestinian refugees. The U.S. government is cutting support for United Nations programs that help these refugees. This will be devastating to the people involved.



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