

03-16-2025 Words of Worship

Announcements –

- Sr. Coffee is this Friday with Kris Schmucker explaining to us where Tblisi, Georgia is and what sorts of experiences and learnings (as well as photos) she had there when visiting Kara.
- CORRECTION! Steve and Sandy are actually coming home already THIS Thursday! The medical team was able to make all the necessary arrangements for appointments to be finished up by then – which was their original return date.

Morning Prayer – Pastor Lois Harder

O God, this past week has brought painful memories for many of us of the destructive Hesston tornado – and now in the same week these years later, deadly winds and fires have brought more destruction. We ask you, God, to be with those whose loved ones have died, who've lost homes and hopes. Be with us all as we witness the devastation and do what we can to help repair and respond to the earth's groaning and writhing under the weight of mistreatment.

Loving God, we pray for Greg and Suzanne, Emily, Madeline and Grace as they grieve the loss of Greg's mother, Brenda. Thank you for the care she received at Bethesda and the time the family had with her here. Send your Spirit of comfort to each family member.

We pray for Steve and Sandy as they finish up their time in Phoenix with the medical team at Mayo Clinic. We thank you for the opportunity they've had to be there and for Steve to participate in this clinical trial. And we pray that this drug would be helpful to Steve – and to others. Be with them as they travel home on Thursday and continue to grant your wisdom, peace and your healing on this journey for Steve.

We pray for others we know and for ourselves - those who are healing from broken bones or broken hearts, from viruses or from toxic relationships. We pray for those who are traveling now, during Spring break; we think of Dwight M as he's on his way to work with MDS in Mississippi and of the Bethel College choir as they sing and tour, sharing their music as they go.

We pray for those whose lives are uncertain and on the edge – especially those in the midst of war and violence that they have no control over. We pray for Ukraine and her people. We pray for those in Gaza and the West Bank, for those facing famine there and in Sudan, in the DRC and in other places around the world and here in our country where life-saving programs and agencies are being disturbed and removed. We pray for immigrants who are detained and punished and we pray for those whose job is to detain and punish.

O God, this suffering cannot be the dreams or the hopes you have for your children, your creation.

Give your people courage, a clear sense of how to share your Love and your Light. Grant your wisdom and your compassion to people who know you as the God of covenant. Give right remembering to people who know your Presence and guidance through time and history. Help us and all who follow you to love you and love people. Help us to know, each day, how to do that and to be faithful to you as you are to us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.