

A PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
revered be your name.

Our hearts long for the day when
"Your kingdom comes,
Your will is done,
on earth as it is in heaven."

Show us your purpose and will,
lead us into love and restored relationships,
show us your grace and truth.

Free us from fear and prejudice,
pride and insecurity,
and striving for power and control.

Set the world right,
restoring justice,
healing broken relationships,
removing divisions,
replacing conflict with reconciliation,
bringing peace and love between women and men,
making us all equal,
uniting us in a common relationship with Jesus Christ,
forming us into Christ's family.

Forgive us for holding women back
from using their gifts fully and freely.

Give us passion and resolve to see this change.

We are sorry
for limiting women's freedoms,
for ignoring their gifts,
for silencing their voices,
for patriarchy and the abuse of power,
for the way women have been treated in the name of faith,
for the ways some have twisted the Bible to wound and control.

We give thanks
for women who have persisted and spoken out,
for women and men who have confronted patriarchy, abuse and violence,
for those who refuse to turn a blind eye,
for those who shine a light in the darkness.

For those who call for justice,
for those who reject defensiveness and excuses,
for those who listen to women's voices and respond,
for those who accept nothing less than gender equality and mutual submission.

Give us courage to build churches
that value women and girls,
that honor women and men equally and fully,
that practice mutual submission,
that invite women to the table as equals,
that enable everyone to use all their gifts fully.

Give us your empowering presence
to confront the powers and principalities,
to model equality and mutuality,
to let justice roll,
to welcome and embrace difference,
to listen to women and children,
to uphold their safety, rights, and value,
to challenge the church and all men to do the same.

You have shown us what is good
and what you require of us:
to seek and do justice
to love mercy and kindness,
to walk humbly with our God.

Shape us into one unified people,
Who are no longer separated by race, politics, class, or gender.
Who are one new humanity in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We commit to doing all we can
to honor, elevate, value, celebrate, listen to, and respect women.

We make a steadfast commitment
to invite women to the table,
as equal partners in faith and leadership and life,
and to practice and promote biblical equality.

Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever.

Amen.