

ASBURYFIRST.ORG/COC

# Virtual Vigil

PRAYER BOOKLET



COMMUNITY  
*Outreach*  
CENTER AT ASBURY  
FIRST

# Introduction

The launch of the Asbury First Outreach Center is an exciting moment in the life of our congregation! It is our prayer that the newly renovated and expanded building will become an outpost of the Kingdom of Heaven: a place where the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, and the sick are cared for. We hope that it will become a place of radical hospitality, compassion, peace, love, grace, solidarity, transformation, service, community, and worship — a place where the presence of the Holy Spirit can be felt moving in and around us.

As the Outreach Center transitions from a dream to reality, we invite you to join us in a congregation wide prayer vigil for its faithfulness and ministry. We believe in the power of prayer, so for two weeks leading up to the Advent season and surrounding our dedication of the space, we are encouraging a concerted effort to pray for this ministry, for our volunteers, and for our community and neighbors. Perhaps you are able to commit to praying for 5 minutes a day, perhaps you can commit to carving out larger chunks of time less frequently, or perhaps you can simply “take the baton” for one day over the next fourteen. We are happy to have as many people as possible join us in whatever capacity they are able!

The pages that follow are not a day by day devotional intended to be worked through from start to finish. Rather, they are a collection of outreach focused prayers, scriptures, poems, and devotions intended to be used to support you in your prayer practices however you find most helpful. We hope that through these words, God might direct our prayer and our hearts in a similar direction.

Please let us know that you are participating! You can do so via the QR code below, or by emailing [pdupont@asburyfist.org](mailto:pdupont@asburyfist.org). We would love to be able to announce that 1,010 people are praying for 1010 East Avenue. Let’s see how close we can get!

We look forward to finding out together what God will do in our community.

Scan the QR Code to Register!

*In Christ,  
Rev. Pat Dupont, Minister for Outreach  
Rev. Susan Shafer, Senior Minister Emerita  
Bonnie Matthaïdëss, Spiritual Director  
Kathryn Woodruff, Summer Pastoral Intern*



# 1. *Prayer for Others*

God of community,  
we pray for our own congregation;  
may we be a source  
of hope for our neighborhood.

Help us to discern needs  
and work to fulfill them.

Strengthen and unify our congregation  
and show us how we can be  
the disciples you envision us to be.

Return the sick to health and well-being  
and relieve the suffering of those  
who have lost loved ones,  
are unable to find meaningful employment  
and fear the challenges of old age.

Guide us, Great Shepherd,  
into your paths of right relationships.

In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.



## *2. Prayer for Humankind*

God of all humanity,  
You call us to bring about  
healing and wholeness for the whole world —  
for people of all races and cultures and creeds.  
Help us to respond to a world that is groaning  
under the weight of injustice  
and broken relationships.

Remind us that differences are a gift,  
and interdependence a strength  
from the same creative God.

Strengthen us to resist the forces  
that encourage polarization and competition  
rather than understanding and cooperation.

We know that your reign is not built  
on injustice and oppression,  
but on the transformation of hearts —  
new life, not just reordered life.

Teach us forgiveness, O God.

Bring us reconciliation.

Give us hope for the future.

We pray in Jesus' love.

Amen.

THE WORKS  
OF  
MERCY



### 3. *Prayer*

Dear God of Justice,  
Please help my generation to see the  
need for justice. It is my dream because  
we need change; and I know that,  
with you, it can happen.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

—Ben (age 11)



## 4. *Prayer*

O God, our Heavenly Creator,  
give us a vision of our world as Your love  
would make it:

a world where the weak are protected  
and none go hungry or poor;

a world where the benefits of civilized  
life are shared,

and everyone can enjoy them;

a world where different races, nations  
and cultures

live in tolerance and mutual respect,

a world where peace is built with justice,

and justice is guided by love;

and give us the inspiration and courage  
to build it,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## 5. *Prayer*

*“If you had faith the size of a mustard seed,  
you could say to this mulberry tree,  
‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’  
and it would obey you.”*

— Luke 17:6

Boundless God,  
help us to see the world differently —  
not with our own limited vision  
but with the gaze of love and justice.  
Give us the foolishness to believe  
that we can change  
what the world says is impossible;  
and when we lose sight of the power  
of love to change the world  
increase our faith.

Amen.



## 6. *Prayer*

Christ Jesus, you were a victim of injustice, condemned by those who had the power to save you and ignored by those who might have spoken up on your behalf. Embolden us to use the opportunities we have to speak out against the injustices around us, knowing that you desire justice for all God's people. Amen.





## *7. Prayer of Hospitality & Compassion*

Open my eyes that they may see the  
deepest needs of people;  
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;  
Touch my heart that it may bring  
warmth to the despairing;  
Teach me the generosity  
that welcomes strangers;  
Let me share my possessions  
to clothe the naked;  
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;  
Make me share in the quest  
to set the prisoner free.  
In sharing our anxieties and our love,  
our poverty and our prosperity,  
we partake of your divine presence.



## 8. *Love in Action*

Your love, O God,  
is an active love:  
engaged,  
involved,  
immersed.

Your love, O God,  
is seen in what you do, not just in what you say:  
in the blessing of children,  
in the meals with outcasts,  
in the touching of the untouchable,  
in your presence,  
and your self-giving,  
in your opening of the way to life  
to all who will come;

And your love, O God,  
is expressed through people like us:  
as we share our wealth in simplicity and generosity;  
as we share wholeness in care and healing  
of the sick and broken;  
as we share hospitality by being truly present  
to the lonely, the imprisoned and the marginalized;  
as we share peace in kindness, listening and acceptance  
with those who challenge us,  
confront us and threaten us.

As you have loved us in incarnate action, O God,  
may we learn to be little incarnations  
through whom your love is expressed  
and experienced in action.

Amen.

## 9. *Prayer*

Almighty God, you have given all peoples one common origin, and your will is to gather them as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of all with the fire of your love and the desire to ensure justice for all our siblings.

By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure justice and equality for every human being, and a human society built on love and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## 10. *Prayer for the Offering*

Generous God,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
you have shown us what it means to love.  
And you call us to follow Your example—  
to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.  
Continue to write your  
law of love on our hearts.  
Give us an unwavering passion for justice,  
and a tenacious faith that will not rest  
until the hungry are fed,  
the oppressed find relief,  
and the outsider finds a welcome.  
Amen.

EVERYBODY WANTS A  
REVOLUTION BUT  
NOBODY WANTS TO



DO THEIR  
DISHES

# 11. Prayer

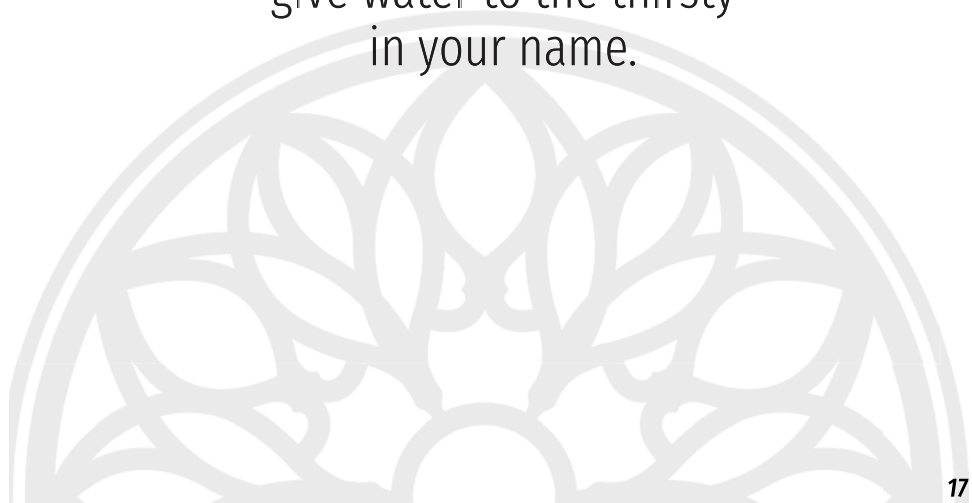
Grant us, God, a vision of your world  
as your love would have it:  
a world where the weak are protected,  
and none go hungry or poor;  
a world where the riches of creation are  
shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
a world where different races and cultures  
live in harmony and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice,  
and justice is guided by love.  
Give us the inspiration and courage to build  
it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.





## 12. *In Your Name*

May we honor your name  
not by paying it lip service, Lord Jesus  
but by trusting the vision it speaks  
of and the way it calls for  
May we honor it by following you  
speaking into the word with our actions  
and showing whom we are chosen to follow  
May we love in your name  
speak in your name  
care in your name  
that willingness to touch the outcast  
feed the hungry  
remember the sick  
visit the imprisoned  
clothe the naked  
give water to the thirsty  
in your name.



## 13. *Prayer*

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## 14. *Prayer*

God of freedom and peace,  
who sees your children  
through all circumstances:

help us walk hand in hand with one another,  
that together we may overcome all evil forces  
which attempt to divide us from each other;  
in the name of the One whose Body is made  
of many members, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Do not  
**WORRY**  
about  
your  
**LIFE**

  
What you  
will eat,  
drink,  
wear



Consider  
the  
  
**RAVENS**

they do  
not  
sow or  
reap  
but God  
feeds them



Consider  
the  
**WILD  
FLOWERS**

they do  
not  
labor  
or  
spin  




but not  
even  
Solomon  
was dress  
ed like one  
of these



seek  
God's  
Kingdom  
and these  
things will  
be given  
to you as  
well

## 15. *Advent Sending*

Advent is our season of waiting  
for the coming of Jesus, our Lord.

But long ago he came already.

So, what are we waiting for, then?

For his real coming to you, to me, to our world.

Where is his kingdom among us?

How can people see whether he is here?

Can they see him in us, in our communities?

This is what we are waiting for,

or rather, what the Lord is waiting for.

The Lord is waiting for our active preparing  
of his love and justice among people.

But he will do it with us.

Let the Lord come and activate us,

with the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us go with one another

the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



## 16. *A Prayer of Love*

Holy of holies-  
Fill us with your Love.

From the wombs that birthed each one of us into  
the world, and the channels of hope that we embody  
as individuals, midwifing your realm  
on earth, as it is in Heaven:

Let love be the guiding force for our relationship  
to our bodies, our selves, our neighbors, our world.

Let love flow forth in reckless abundance,  
and let it begin with me.

Amen.



LET JUSTICE ROLL LIKE A  
MIGHTY RIVER



A  
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5:24

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<https://sarahfullerart.com>  
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# *Notes, Prayers, and Meditations*

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**COMMUNITY**  
*Outreach*  
**CENTER** AT ASBURY  
FIRST



## **Support the Launch of the New Community Outreach Center!**

### **HELP US MOVE!**

Construction is nearing completion and now our empty building is ready to be filled! Volunteer your time to prepare the space for ministry.

### **VOLUNTEER!**

Visit [asburyfirst.org/coc](http://asburyfirst.org/coc) to learn about our programs and sign up to volunteer. In the new year, attend a volunteer orientation.

### **PRAY!**

Sign up at [asburyfirst.org/coc](http://asburyfirst.org/coc) to participate in our Virtual Vigil by praying for our center, volunteers, neighbors, and ministries for two weeks surrounding the dedication of the new space.

### **CELEBRATE!**

Attend the special worship and building Dedication Ceremony on Sunday, November 20 at 12 pm.

### **GIVE!**

Monetary and other donations are essential for our programs to continue to serve our neighborhood and community. You can give monetarily at [asburyfirst.org/give](http://asburyfirst.org/give) and see a list of needed items at [asburyfirst.org/coc](http://asburyfirst.org/coc). You can also participate in the Thanksgiving In-Gathering donation drive.

### **SHARE!**

Help us spread the word about all we are doing. Invite a friend or neighbor to any of the events listed above!



**ASBURYFIRST.ORG/COC**