



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRAYING THROUGH THE
FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT

LOVE

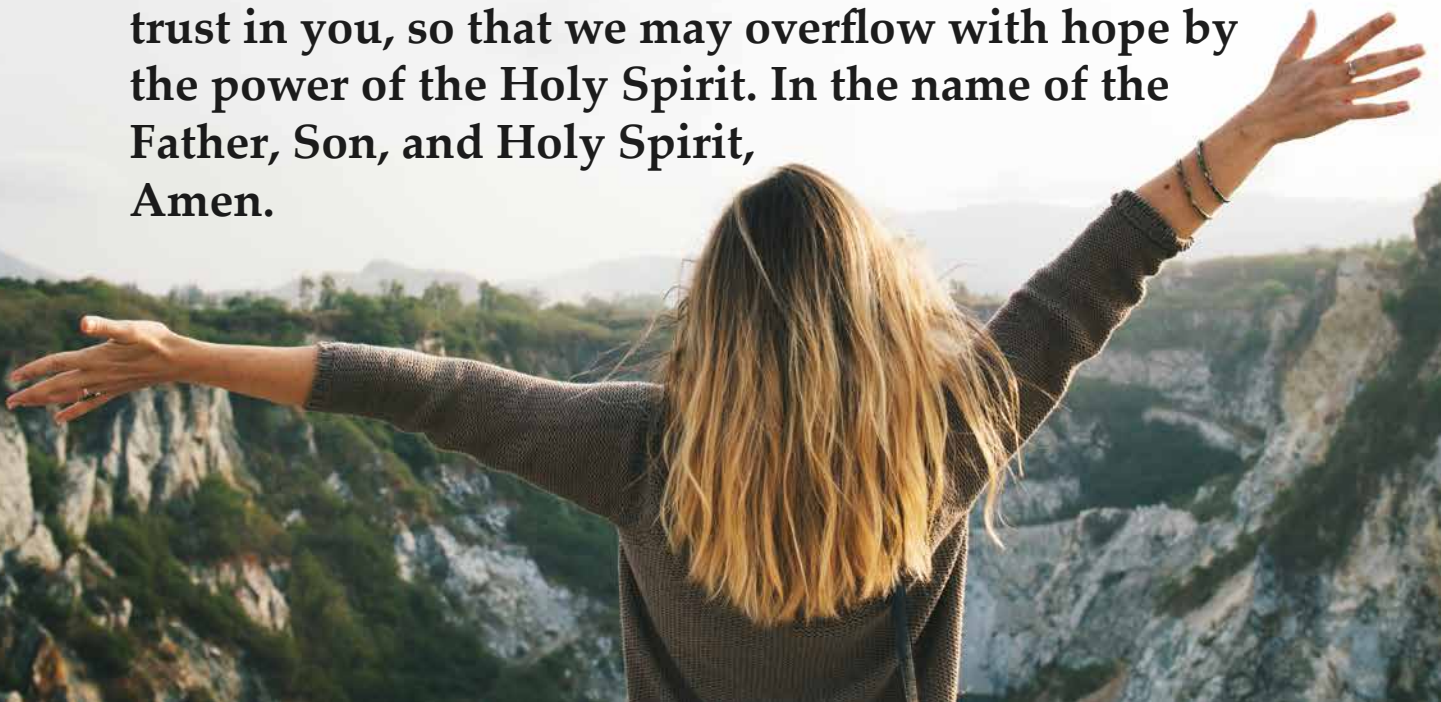


Loving Father, we praise you that you did not just describe love to us, but clearly revealed true love to us through the sacrificial gift of Jesus. As you love us with an unbreakable bond, empower and equip us now to love one another. Mark our love with action and truth rather than just words and speech. Keep us from mere sentiment toward one another, but instead propel us to sacrifice and service. Teach us to love others when they are unlovely, since you loved us when we were dead in our sins. Direct our thoughts, words, and desires according to the love of Christ. Overrule our self-consumption, self-protection, and self-promotion so that in all our relationships we live by faith in him who gave himself up for us. May we love one another in such a way that others know that we belong to you, and in this way may behold you. For you tell us that no one has ever seen God, but that if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. Show off your glory through us when we love one another. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.



JOY

Joy of the World, we adore you as the one who fills our hearts with joy because of that great morning of resurrection. We rejoice that you are alive and nothing can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus. By your Spirit and because of the truth of your arrival in the flesh, empower our hearts to leap with the joy of John the Baptist in the womb. Though we have not seen you, fill us with an inexpressible and glorious joy by faith until we behold you face to face. Strengthen us to consider it all joy when we face trials of various kinds because we know that when we have stood the test, we will receive the crown of life that you have promised to your beloved. Teach us to discern with wisdom and in perseverance the difference between happiness and joy, comfort and contentment. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. And we ask with great expectation that you, the God of hope, will fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.



PEACE

Prince of peace, our world is full of trouble, division, and disorder. It is as if the earth is giving way underneath us, as if the mountains are falling into the heart of the sea and the waters are roaring over us. Grant us stillness to know that you reign and that you have overcome the world. We beg you to lift your face upon us and give us your peace. Wherever there is racial injustice and hatred, let the peace of Christ rule in the hearts of your people since we know that we are members of one body. Wherever there is the approaching storm of war and death, speak as you did to the violent waters: "Peace, be still." Wherever there is relational bitterness and division, convince us that deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy. Enable us as your followers to cast our anxiety on you when we face unrest within us and around us. We confess that we far too often try to fix the turmoil according to our own wisdom. Sadly, we then diminish our joy and increase our strife by fragmenting your world into godless factions that pursue our agendas over your law. Forgive us by the mercy of Christ and show us the way to peace that is found in knowing you through your faithful and timeless Word. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.



PATIENCE

A close-up photograph of a brown hen sitting on a nest of straw. The hen has a prominent red comb and wattle. In the foreground, a single brown egg is visible on the straw. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown, suggesting the interior of a nest or a barn.

Long-suffering Father, we praise you that you are slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness. You are graciously patient, not wanting anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance. In contrast to your perfect character, we are consumed with instant gratification and we confess that we despise waiting. We scramble to satisfy our own hearts with earthly things rather than waiting on you to satisfy us with your unfailing love. We grumble and complain when our plans are inconvenienced and our schedules are interrupted. Because of Christ alone, we ask that you would forgive us and we thank you for your patience with us. Enable us by your Spirit to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Empower us to live like farmers who faithfully sow with patience and dependence while waiting and trusting you with the harvest that is to come. Give us wisdom to trust you when you say: "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city." Make us into those who renew our strength because we wait for the Lord. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

KINDNESS

Loving Savior, thank you for leaving the wonder of glory to enter the darkness of our peril so that you might show us the particular tender care of our Father in heaven. How often we fail to express your kindness to others that you have placed in our lives. We confess that we bite and devour one another with our words, thoughts, and actions and thus fail to live out the summary of the law: "Love your neighbor as yourself." We confess that we live harried, busy lives that focus on our own agendas and needs rather than attentive lives to the needs of those around us. Each day, we function without awareness of your presence and we miss opportunities that you give us to express kindness in our world. Forgive us and form us so that we embrace our identity as your chosen people, holy and dearly loved. May the activity of our lives flow out of that identity so that we treat others with compassion. You teach us that whatever we do for one of the least of these, the hungry, thirsty, stranger, needy, sick and imprisoned, we do for you. Give us eyes that see, hearts that care, and hands that serve. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

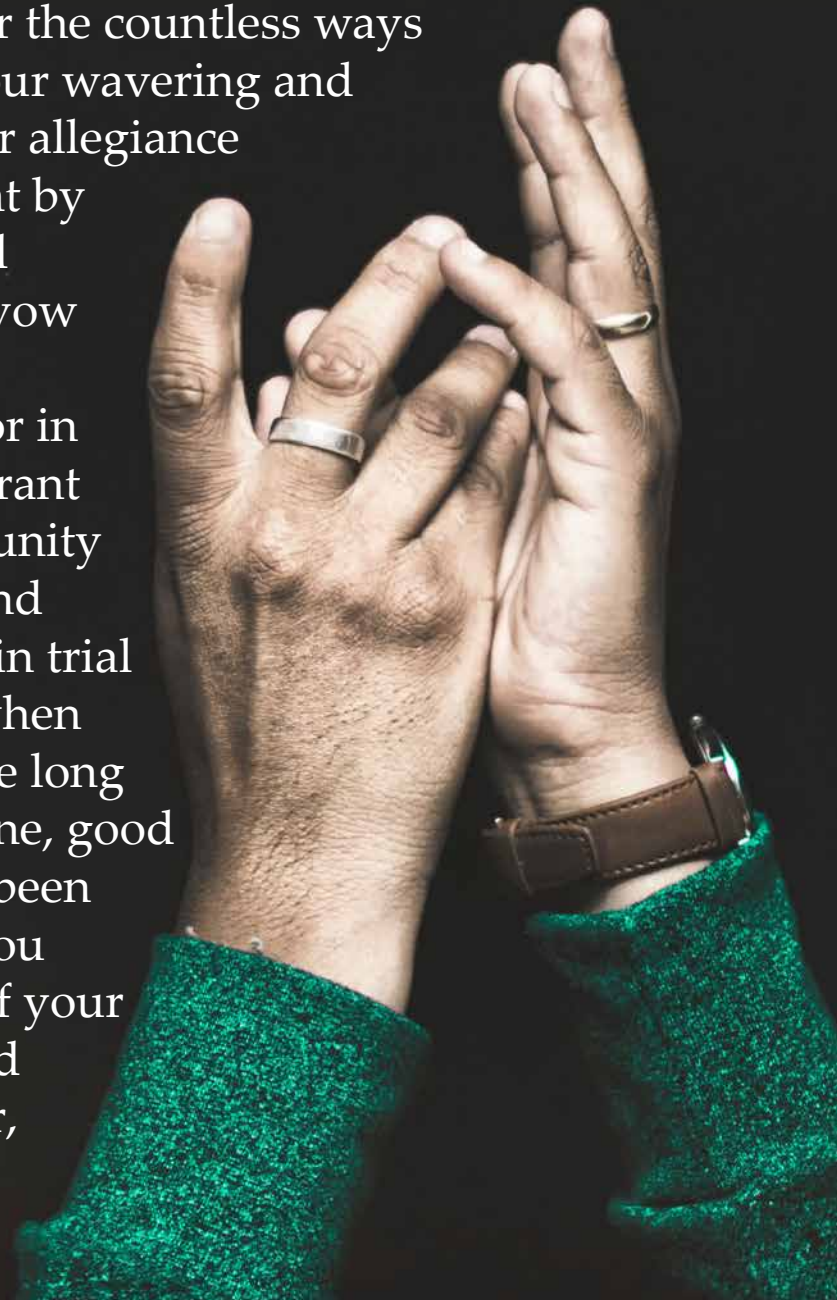


GOODNESS

Our good and benevolent King, we honor your perfect goodness in all your ways. We join the psalmist in proclaiming the greatness of your goodness, which you have stored up for those who take refuge in you. Using the words of your beloved saint, John Newton, we affirm our assurance of your goodness in the midst of a broken world: "Though troubles assail us and dangers affright, though friends should all fail us and foes all unite, one thing secures us, whatever betide, the promise assures us, 'The Lord will provide.'" We look to you in faith, trusting that we will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. By your grace and for your glory, you have rescued us so that we might display your goodness to a world full of guilt and grief. And so we humbly and boldly ask: empower us not to be overcome by evil but to overcome evil with good. Enliven our hearts so that we hate what is evil and cling to what is good. You have clearly revealed to us what is good: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. By the power of your Spirit, strengthen and empower us in every opportunity and realm that you place us to do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Out of the goodness of your love and in your great mercy, hear our prayer and turn your face toward us. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

FAITHFULNESS

Faithful God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations, we honor and adore you. We give exuberant thanks that your never-ending love extends to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds. Your character is unchanging and trustworthy. You keep all of your promises and we are glad. We confess that we are not like you. We are promise breakers who struggle to keep our vows and honor our word. Forgive us for the countless ways that we fail you and others in our wavering and wandering. Help us to keep our allegiance to you, day by day and moment by moment, in thought, word, and deed. Enable us to keep every vow that we have taken, whether in marriage, vocation, baptisms, or in membership in your church. Grant us faithful friendship in community as we serve others above self and endure together with patience in trial and trouble. Beloved master, when our race on earth is finished, we long to hear you say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." Please make it so, Lord Jesus. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.





SELF-CONTROL

Father God of grace, we confess to you our profound lack of self-control. If we are honest, we'd much rather control the actions of those around us, instead of stewarding our own choices. Our urges and desires hold sway over us even when we promise that they won't. We struggle to restrain our tongues, our appetites, and even our careless whims. But your Son, when hungry and tempted with food from the devil, chose the Word of God instead. When tempted to test his father's love for peace of mind, he rested in God's will for him. When tempted by false glory, he chose what is holy instead of what was easy. Give us the resilience to do the same, and a reliance on your spirit that we might bear Kingdom fruit. We don't want to conform; we long to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Cause us to love and serve those around us humbly instead of being slaves to our own cravings. Inspire us to cling to your Word in times of temptation and look for the promised way out that you always provide. Make us shine like stars so that others around us will see Jesus. And help us to see your Word as our food and your will as our comfort. In the matchless name of Jesus, Amen.