

A Prayer of Inclusion

Leader: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

Gracious God, grow all our schools to be communities of care, help us to recognize your image in all whom we meet, and to celebrate the diversity of gifts you have given each of your children. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

For those who are blind and cannot see, and for those who can see but are blind to the people around them. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For those who move slowly because of accident, illness or ability, and for those who move too fast to be sensitive to the world in which they live. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For those who are deaf and cannot hear, and those who can hear but who ignore the cries of others. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For children who learn slowly, for students who learn in different ways, and for people who learn quickly but too often fail to act wisely. ***Lord in your mercy.***

For those who have chronic illnesses for which there is no known cure or relief, and for those who live fearfully of being ill. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For those with exceptional needs who teach of patience, goodness, humor, and the joy in your presence. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For families, friends, and teachers who support a diverse range of students; strengthen them in body and spirit; refresh them when weary and hearten them in discouragement. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For those who think they are worthless and beyond your love, and for people who think they don't need your love. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For the children and families who feel isolated by their challenges, and for people who contribute to that sense of isolation. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

For all the people you have created and love, that we may learn to respect each other and learn to live together in dignity and your peace. ***Lord in your mercy ...***

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you cared for those who were blind or deaf, immobilized or slow to learn. Though all of us need help, give special care to those who we have come to know as exceptional, particularly those we name in silence... By our concern may they know the love you have for them, and come to trust you; through Jesus Christ who came to heal:

Response: **Amen**