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# CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Holy God, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned in our thoughts, with words, and by our actions. We have sinned both purposely and carelessly by deeds done and left undone.

As the people of God, we have not loved you with our whole hearts, minds, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

We have failed in our devotion to God. We have neglected prayer and worship you are due and abused your means of grace.

As a church in this nation, forgive us for making your ways unattractive through our unfaithfulness and disobedience. For putting on religious acts, rather than practicing the ways of Christ. For being like the busy and self-important priests that overlook the beaten Samaritan on the road. Forgive us for being complicit in the systemic injustice of the Jericho Road.

Forgive us for seeking the approval and praise of man over the approval of God.

**Presider | Lord, have mercy on us.**  
**Church | We have sinned against you.**

Forgive us for the sins that take place in the hiddenness of our hearts.

For our unbridled anger, bitterness, and resentment that sears into us and then burns toward others. For thinking we are worse than or better than our neighbors. For listening to our inner-critic more than the voice of God, and then using that harshness to criticize and measure others in judgment and slander.

Forgive us for our pride and self-flattery. For the assumption that only we can fix ourselves, our friends and family and the world. Forgive us for our martyrism, our expectation that only we can do it by ourselves and then becoming angry when we find ourselves burnt out.

For the ways we hide ourselves behind appearances, success and what we produce. For measuring our worth and other's worth based on what we do—rather than our humanity and inherent worth given by our Creator.

Forgive us for our self-pity, impatience, and envy of those who seem more fortunate than ourselves. For not seeing the image of God in ourselves and in others. Dishonoring their personhood and the imago-dei in us. For fearing rejection more than the acceptance we have in God.

For our self-indulgent appetites and greed, our incessant pursuit of worldly comforts, information and control.

**Presider | Lord, have mercy on us.**  
**Church | We have sinned against you.**

Forgive us for our obsession with comfort, anxiety and safety. The pursuit of security over all else and the ways we protect ourselves and what we think is ours, to the point of living in fear over faith and trust that all we have and all we are is God's.

For our ingratitude for our daily bread, our work, our gardens. Our failure to steward and heed your call. For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation and our lack of concern for the generations that come after us. For our gluttony and excess to consume to the point of irresponsibility and consideration for others.

Forgive us for not trusting that you, God, are competent enough. Forgive us for not giving you or others the benefit of the doubt, and for the poison we spill through lies, gossip and slander in order to control the narrative.

Forgive us for our inaction and complicity due to us numbing ourselves and removing ourselves from the discomfort that comes when we place ourselves near the poor, the disenfranchised, the marginalized. To giving into our addictions to self-soothe. For turning a blind eye to human need and suffering, for becoming numb to injustice and cruelty in our nation and land.

For our exploitation and abuse of others and our failure to give of ourselves in love.

We confess for the brokenness in our heart that has led to the brokenness we see in our world.

**Presider | Lord, have mercy on us.**  
**Church | We have sinned against you.**

>> PLEASE TURN OVER TO THE BACK SIDE >>

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REFLECT ON A TIME YOU COMMITTED A SIN  
INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY.

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**WRITE or DRAW how you felt, reacted, and how it affected the way you saw yourself.**

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**WRITE or DRAW a prayer of confession.**

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