PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (9.20.15)

**You hear us calling, you hear us calling, O creator.**

We plead before you Jesus, for all tonight who are in need of your merciful love and protection.

For our families, friends, neighbors, and enemies; that being freed from sin, doubt, and despair, we may live in the fullness of your perfect peace, hope, and love.

**You hear us calling, you hear us calling, O creator.**

We cry out to you on behalf of the millions in Syria and around the world who are fleeing, forced to leave everything behind, with no promise of safety or security. We mourn for those whose lives have been taken; for the life of Aylan Kurdi, whose photo has made the crisis immediate for so many, and for the unseen children he represents.

Remind us that we didn’t earn our comfort and privilege, so that we don’t take the option of turning our prayers and advocacy away from this crisis. Forgive us for being paralyzed by numbness or fear, and help us to care for the foreign wanderer, as you have commanded. Let us respond as if it were our children on those boats, our sisters and brothers and parents fighting for their lives. As if it were us.

God, we beg, your kingdom come. Move in ways we don’t understand. Bring peace, protection, and an outpouring of wisdom for world leaders.

For all people who have been displaced, Lord…

**You hear us calling, you hear us calling, O creator.**

For the division that plagues our nation, Lord, reflected in our politics, in the media, and in our social structures. Help us not to make scapegoats out of other individuals or people groups, and to not buy into the notion that we are so very different from one another. Remind us that you have called us to be a community that bears each other’s burdens.

For the systemic racism that continues to thrive in our nation, Lord, and for the people who have suffered at the hands of it. We ask for eyes to be opened to the injustice that prevails. And for the complacency that keeps a hold on those who unconsciously and consciously benefit from these structures to be shaken off.

Forgive us for the legacy that persists because we accepted the false notion that you broke the humanity you created into different races, with some inferior to others. Forgive us for creating division and inequality among ourselves when you have called us to live differently.

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy;**

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.**

We lift up those who have been made to feel unwelcome in your church by the actions and attitudes of some within it. Regardless of our personal interpretation of your word, Lord, forgive us for our insistence that ours is the only correct one.

For our LGBTQ neighbors, family members, and those who are a part of our church community, O Lord, let them know that they are known and loved. Help us to live out that love. And, as you have commanded us, help us to not neglect what you call the most important matters of your law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

For all people who have been made to feel unwelcome even in our own community, Lord…

**You hear us calling, you hear us calling, O creator.**

For this gathering of people and believers everywhere who seek to follow you, that Christ’s words and values may find an eternal place in their hearts.

For the peace and unity of the local and global church of God; for all who proclaim the gospel and who seek the truth.  Lord, help us to delight in your will and live out your call.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

Text written by Jenny and John Potter

Music by The Brilliance, “Prayers of the People”