

Loving God, we gather humbly together this morning in prayer.

We ask to be reminded of the most important commandment given to us - to love God with all your heart.

We ask to be reminded that the second most important commandment is to love and treat your neighbour as you would want to be loved and treated yourself.

More than ever on this Sunday morning, may we love our neighbours and remember that there is no 'them', but only us.

We pray together this morning as an us and as South Africans.

We acknowledge the violence and destruction that has erupted this last week and that it includes and affects each one of us.

We pray for the wisdom to accept that truth and accept that we need help and to face the truth of what our country is actually all about.

We acknowledge our collective trauma.

We pray that in order to be helped, we need to look within.

We need to look to our past and accept that our actions are a result of a collective history. A history that each one of us has participated in, directly or indirectly and have been and are a part of.

We accept that no matter how long that journey has been and how destructive its actions and consequences are, that the chance to change and heal is always given to us.

We thank you loving God for that chance.

I am reminded of the lesson that fynbos gives me.

That new life always does emerge from the fires.

We ask to be reminded that the journey of healing and rebuilding is never easy and is the most difficult job of all.

May our journey of healing be guided by love, our love of God and our love of each other.

May we remember the power that listening and forgiveness represent.

May we remember the importance of justice.

We know that during the journey of rebuilding and healing it will be the poor who suffer the most and that it is the women, the children, the elderly and the vulnerable who need our protection the most.

May we dare to give love a chance, to be guided by love and to keep our hearts open, our minds broad and our feet on the ground during these difficult times.

We give thanks for the ground on which stand. We give thanks for the beautiful country in we live and for all that binds us together as a nation.

Amen

Please join me as we say together

The Prayer for Africa

God bless Africa.

Guard her children.

Guide her leaders.

Give her peace.

Amen