

A Prayer for the World

by Sam Ogles / Originally published in Spirit Journal June 2016

(We want to share with you this heartfelt prayer created recently by Sam Ogles, a member of the “Circle of Service,” Contemplative Outreach – Chicago’s volunteer servant-leadership team.)

We pray for the many names that a broken world has in our time: for the migrant crisis to be met with wisdom and compassion, for our political elections to have a respectful discourse worthy of our high ideals, for racial justice to be a vocation to more than minority communities, for economic markets that determine the livelihoods of so many, for systems of terror and violence to give way to the power of peace, and for our role as Good Samaritans to those in our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities.

We pray humbly for our collective enemies who are your beloved creations. We beseech you, Lord that you would give us eyes to see the Imago Dei, the image of God, in those who oppose us, those who persecute us, those who vote differently from us, those who stand against the justice we seek, those who practice a different religion, those who shun reconciliation, and those who speak a different language and hail from a different land.

We pray for our personal enemies who make living a life of love so difficult, yet who provide the opportunity for radical love to which you have personally called us. We pray for wisdom, compassion, and healing for those individuals who heap on us unbearable burdens offering unspeakable gifts, grinding us like wheat.

We pray that we would know in our heart of hearts the extension of your infinite love. Please help us to be your hands and feet in building a Kingdom of Peace. We ask that your divine power would reunite all that custom and ignorance have divided. May we live the truth that all people are sisters and brothers under the widespread wings of your grace.