

Rev. Emily D. Kincaid, executive minister at Orange Beach UMC, has today's beautiful prayer. Take time to read this and share it.

We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are.

We are not the people we like others to think we are.

We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls.

But we cannot hide our true selves from you.

You know us as we are, and yet you love us.

We feel weary with all that is happening around us and within our hearts.

We cry out to you from the ends of the earth, show us again how this works—how you bring dry bones to life. Help us.

You say to us, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Breathe on us, God, breathe life into our tired bodies, bring light to the dark corners of our minds, breathe comfort into our sad hearts.

Enkindle our awareness of what we were meant to be and do.

Blessed are we who turn our gaze to seek the One who truly sees us, and knows us, like newborns whose blurry eyes focus to find adoring eyes beaming down, delighting and filling, mirroring and multiplying.

Blessed are we who discover we are loved and held, in arms that are strong enough to hold what we cannot.

You tell us, “those who wait upon the Lord, will find new strength.”

Teach us to wait and watch for you, O God. Teach us that what is done in love is never lost.

Give us grace to hear your promises.

Give us freedom to trust your promises.

Give us patience to wait and humility to hand over our dreamed future to your larger purpose.

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace to fearlessly contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and that we may reverently use our freedom to seek justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy name.

All these things we pray to you, Triune God, in the power of the Holy Spirit and through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

Sources used:

Prayers for a Privileged People by Walter Brueggemann

The UM Book of Worship

Kate Bowler's liturgy for when you feel weary

The Book of Common Prayer