

# 30 Days of Prayer

## Day 29

### Ephesians 4.1-7

**4**I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

**7** But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

God of unity and peace,

I believe I know what is good for our church, yet without you I know nothing. I believe I have power to make important changes, yet without your presence change is irrelevant. I believe I can solve problems on my own, but without knowing your will, I cannot even identify problems much less solve them. Transform my heart so that my will is closely aligned with your will. Give me wisdom to identify real areas of change, and insight to know how to turn change into life-giving transformation.

You have called us to a mission, that "every person will know Jesus Christ." Yet as a congregation we are at odds about how to carry out that mission. Unite us so that we can be a powerful movement of Christ's gospel in this world. Instead of standing against one another to fight for a "right," help us stand together in the face of the "unknown." Give us courage to let go of our preconceived notions of what we want, so that you can work outside the box to give us what we need. Grant us the insight to recognize your gifts of grace and receive your gifts with humility and gratitude. In the name of Christ,

Amen.

In a time of crisis, it is easy to put up our defenses and stand against each other, fighting for what we believe is right. But Paul writes to the Ephesians that they need to stand together in crisis, unified in Jesus Christ.

As Shepherd enters time of tremendous transition, we all have ideas about what will make us strong, viable, financially stable. Remember to ask God what he wants for us. Where is God leading? Are we willing to give up fighting for what is "right" to attain what is God's? God's way is often surprising and counterintuitive. Come to him in prayer, and he will be faithful to us! God will lead us into and through transition to a place of peace, unity, and strength.