

May 7, 2023  
Park Place Church of God  
Prayers of the People  
Karen Soetenga

Our Creator, our One Defense, Our Righteousness,

We stand in need of you today. When we take in the totality of the ways You are needed, in our personal lives and in the world around us, it can leave us overwhelmed. We come today without a shortage of challenges and concerns.

We come feeling the weight of the conflict all around us and throughout our world.

Some come with physical impairments and some having experienced loss in all its various forms.

This week, despite our best efforts, many of us have committed wrongs against You and your beloved.

Others have had wrongs committed against them.

Some come today feeling confused and uncomfortable with changes happening near and far.

And still others come feeling hopeless and alone.

Lord, sometimes life can be a lot. We feel backed into a corner. Confined by our circumstances and boxed in with no way out. Oh Lord, help us find rest in the truth that there is no where we can go, nothing we could face, that You aren't already present. You are not confined by our limitations, by circumstances or obstructions, or even our attempts of understanding You.

So, when all hope seems lost, remind us that You, You cannot be confined.

When our story and what we have lived through doesn't match up with what we have been taught about You, remind us, You cannot be confined.

Forgive us when we box You in. When we need to have answers that are neat and tidy; for You cannot be confined.

When we think we have come to the end of our rope, when the road ahead is unclear; help us remember, You will not be confined.

Remind us You are not reflected only in faces and contexts that are familiar and comfortable. May we not forget to rejoice in the bounty of your creation. The beauty, the diversity, the heights the depths, for You, our Creator, cannot be confined.

When sin runs deep, God of mercy, You cannot be confined.

When change is at hand, when the new is breaking forth, remind us, You will never be confined.

And Lord, if we ever doubt your favor towards us; if we ever doubt if we are good enough, worthy enough; may we never forget, God of Love, You will never be confined.

And Father, may we learn to live within this context. Equip us to meet a world not always able to see the boundlessness of your goodness. Teach us to be agents of your Way. Overflowing with love for You and for our neighbor. Set free. Unconfined. For You have called us out. Out of darkness into your extravagant, glorious, illuminating light. May we learn to live out of that space. For the building up of your Kingdom. For the fulfilling of your purposes on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen