

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE • PARK PLACE CHURCH OF GOD  
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023 • 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

O God, shepherd and guardian of our souls, healer, lover, friend,  
gate, way, life, and truth, on this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, you call us  
to follow the way of your risen Son and to care for those  
who are our companions not only with words of comfort but  
with acts of love, seeking to be true friends of all:  
To be and do other than what the world expects;  
To live as resurrection people;  
To do good, regardless;  
To live generously, regardless;  
To befriend, regardless;  
To cherish all humanity and each person along the way, regardless;  
Help us to find the path you walk and stick to it and to You,  
Even if in doing so we find our way on the paths that  
Lead through the valley of the shadow of death.

We pray this morning that you will open our hearts to your power  
moving around us and between us and within us until  
your glory is revealed in our love of friend and enemy, in communities  
of justice and compassion and in the healing of all that is broken.  
You call us to live differently. You call us to a higher way—the way  
of peace and love and simple human kindness. To do unto others  
as we would others would do to us—as you would us do.  
We are grateful that we do not walk  
this way alone but with others and with you through the  
Empowering presence of your Holy Spirit....

So many of us struggle today with the dangers of our world where  
wars and rumors of war, where innocents are gunned down or, worse,  
used in degrading ways for degrading ends, where personal agenda rather than the  
common good of our brothers and sisters drives our passions,  
where nations strive to assert their own wealth, power, and position,  
where the scales of justice are broken and where persons are denied the discovery of their  
true, God-given selves. Empower us, Lord, to be healers and lovers, to call all from  
the tombs in which they hide by choice or in fear and to bring good news to the poor,  
release to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

We continue to pray for all of those in our own community who struggle  
With aging, illness, even the simple demands of life...

For our sisters and brothers: ...; for those whose  
mobility is lessened even as resources dwindle; for those in our extended

family across this country and around the world; for those living in new communities and unfamiliar settings who struggle with loss of autonomy; for those bereaved, seeking some peace in the midst of great loss;

and for Park Place Church of God, for us, your people and our pastors, as we strive to be the people of God you call us to be.

Guide us, O God, in the path of discipleship so that, as  
You have blessed us, we may bless others, and bring the promise  
Of the kingdom near in and through our words and deeds.

In the Name of the One we call both Savior and Lord,  
Amen.