

*Lord make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred let your love increase.
Lord make us instruments of your peace.
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease when we are your instruments of peace.*
(attributed to St. Francis of Assisi/music and adapted lyrics by Kirk Dearman/Debbie Deby Dearman)

Eternal God, we are your children. We live in gratitude for the grace of your daily gift of life, for the resurrection of our bodies and minds with each season and for the sustaining power of your presence woven throughout our story with you.

Today we bring this statement to you. The words we've written have been laid on the altar over and over again in our private moments of consideration, in our collaborative circles of dialogue and in our times of worship both secluded and corporate. I thank you for each one in this circle and the gifts they have generously brought to the creation of this statement. Guard each dear one's heart, mind and body as we take the next step—Gail, Christie, Nic Don, Arthur, Karen and Carma.

We bring this particular revision to you as a marker and reminder to us of the sacred work that we do. Remind us, through this Ebenezer moment, of the prompt of your Spirit towards this action on behalf of and with the LGBTQ community.

We understand the limits of a static piece of paper with letters formed into the best version of language we can access for this transcendent moment. We are aware of the mismatch between our limitations with the transcendent need of this task. So, we lay this statement on the altar with our hopeful hearts reaching toward your living presence asking that you continue to breathe life into this statement, these words, our signatures that they may be a dynamic testimony to the extravagant love that has breathed life into all of your creatures.

In Jesus' words from Luke 4:16-19 (NRSV)

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

May you, Lord, be honored in the action this statement may generate.

In the name of the community of the Godhead, let it be so.