***Opening Words***

*This statement may be spoken any time the church gathers for worship. It is especially appropriate at council meetings (presbytery, synod, or General Assembly), dedications, or around Indigenous Peoples’ Day or Thanksgiving Day.*

As people committed to justice and peace, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the people of the lands where we gather today, designated as the traditional territory of the indigenous people of this region: [particular peoples may be named]. We repent of violence and broken covenants. We seek to live in respect and right relation; and we remain mindful of our need to make things right.

*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), p. 604

***Prayer of Confession***

*This prayer of confession is especially appropriate for Indigenous Peoples’ Day or Thanksgiving Day. It may be spoken responsively as indicated or prayed in unison.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

You are the maker of heaven and earth—

**yet some claim to discover the land**

**while others are pushed aside.**

You are the life of the world—

**yet some abuse and exploit your creation**

**while others hunger and thirst.**

Your faithful love endures forever—

**yet some disregard their promises**

**while others are betrayed.**

Your generosity is without measure—

**yet some heap up treasure for themselves**

**while others struggle in poverty.**

You offer freedom to all in your Spirit—

**yet some enjoy the blessings of liberty**

**while others remain in bondage.**

You walk in beauty and truth—

**yet some destroy and deceive**

**while others are trampled underfoot.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

**Redeem broken promises,**

**bring justice to this land,**

**and help us to live in right relationship**

**with you and one another;**

**in Jesus’ name we pray.**

*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), p. 609

***For Governments of the World***

High God, holy God:

you rule the ways of peoples,

and govern every earthly government.

Work with those who work for peace.

Make every person in authority an agent of your reconciliation,

and every diplomat an ambassador of hope.

Bring peace and goodwill among all people,

fulfilling among us the promise made

in Jesus Christ, who was born to save the world. **Amen.**

*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), p. 627

***For Responsible Citizenship***

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

Bless the leaders of our land,

that we may be a people at peace among ourselves

and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Help us elect trustworthy leaders,

contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare,

and thus serve you faithfully in our generation,

to the honor of your holy name;

through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), p. 629

***For Social Justice***

Grant, O God,

that your holy and life-giving Spirit

may so move every human heart,

that the barriers which divide us may crumble,

suspicions disappear,

and hatreds cease,

and that, with our divisions healed,

we might live in justice and peace;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), p. 629

***For Our Country***

Rule the hearts of your servants,

the president of the United States [or of this nation],

and all others in authority,

that they may do justice, and love mercy,

and walk in the ways of truth.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection,

and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us,

and to judges and magistrates

the grace to execute justice with mercy.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), p. 1122

***For All People***

To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord,

and to all people give dignity, food, and shelter.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Grant us abundant harvests,

strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth,

and wisdom to use them well.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach

and all who learn.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble;

protect all who travel by land, air, or water;

and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth,

and all young children,

and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned,

the refugees and the homeless,

the unemployed,

and all who are desolate and oppressed.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Heal those who are sick in body or mind,

and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Grant us true repentance,

forgive our sins,

and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit

to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), pp. 1122–1123

*See also these resources in the 2018 Book of Common Worship, not reproduced online for copyright reasons:*

Prayers of Intercession from the World Council of Churches (pp. 104–105)

The Immigrant’s Creed (pp. 613–614)