

2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Sabrina Slater
August 3, 2018 Morning Plenary

Image Prayer*

[Black Screen]

Beloved of GOD—on this day when we focus on the light of GOD coming and enabling us to join GOD in building and living in a truly inclusive community. Let us pray.

But let us pray with the help of images.

[Image of Child]

A child. GOD, we pray over our children, the ones we birthed and the ones we have lost. We think of the beautiful babies of the world . . . and we cry out for all who suffer, all who are separated from family, all who are enslaved, all who are trafficked, all who are in prison and detention centers, all those the world and we have forgotten. We cry out for our children like Hagar for Ishmael—seeking the GOD who sees us will see and save the children. We speak life and prosperity—blessing and favor—the breaking of generational curses and freedom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Image of Beggar]

A beggar. A person not making a living wage. Those we have trained ourselves NOT to see. The tipped wage worker. The people with the hands who make our clothes, food and beds even here at the Gathering. For the majority of the world who live on very little; for all those who know hunger, and for those who live the reality of economic injustice and poverty; we join our voices with the widow in scripture who cried out—demanding justice on behalf of all those who suffer injustice because we have sinned, because we have made idols of success and money—because we have benefited from corrupt practices that favor some over others based on race, class, gender, age, ability, sexuality Forgive us and give justice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Black Screen w/writing "Look at your neighbor"]

A sister, a friend, a stranger. What truth lives behind the smile? What fights, wounds and victories motivate her praise and worship? What healing has come from the tears shed? Do we see each other? Let us look and see each other—see each other and speak life, speak love, speak peace, speak shalom. Let us seek blessings and favor for my sister, for my friend, for the stranger I have not yet met. Let us seek protection for their life, for their family, for their journey, and for their deep healing so that they might be free to help heal the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Black w/writing "Please Close Your Eyes"]

Beloved of GOD—on this day when we focus on the light of GOD coming and enabling us to join GOD in building and living in a truly inclusive community let us see all that hinders while imaging what Thy kingdom

come—Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven looks like . . . images of freedom, of joy, of love, of laughter . . . images of wholeness, of dancing and singing—images of the fullness of life lived in community and delighting with GOD in the goodness of it all.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Amen.

Sabrina Slater served on the plenary team for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering and is pastor of Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Spencer, New York. She offered this prayer during the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, held in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2–5. Italicized text in brackets indicates photos that were on screen in plenary. To use this prayer in your worship setting, please credit Sabrina Slater/2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women and also include credits for the photos you select.