

Prayers/Litanies for June 19, 2022 Service

gathering: *this is my body*<sup>1</sup>

This my body:  
Passionate Struggling  
Broken Healing  
Tempted Steadfast

This is my body:  
Alive in the margins  
Black, brown, yellow, pink  
Lesbian, gay, bi  
Male, female, trans, queer  
Rich, poor, hungry, lost

This is my body:  
Loving, laughing  
Aging, newborn  
Thirsty, satisfied  
Aching, strong

This is my body:  
The earth, God's body  
The cosmos gleaming  
Rivers and air  
Mountains and valleys  
Stars and coral reefs

This is my body:  
This gathered body  
This body of seekers  
This body of Christ  
This hopeful and yearning body  
This gathered body, here  
in this place.  
Thanks be to [G]od. [Amen]

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<sup>1</sup> Carol Wise, Executive Director, BMC (Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests), *All Along the Arc: Worship and Ritual for Welcoming Communities* (Minneapolis: BMC, 2017), 9-10.

A Pride Litany

Adapted from: Rob Walker (*Prayers from the Edges*, 35-37)

*One: The colour red represents love.*

All: Living and liberating God,

You have created all people in your own image.

You have coaxed us into our uniqueness and you delight in who we are.

Give us hearts that are open to you and to each other.

*One: The colour orange represents gifts of healing.*

All: Healing and generous God,

You have given us the example of Jesus,

who healed the sick and included the outcasts.

Give us the hospitality to extend the same compassion and love

To those who hurt.

*One: The colour yellow represents the sun, light, and joy.*

All: God of resurrection and fullness of joy,

You have called us to be your people

And promised that all manner of things shall be well.

We open ourselves, today, to fresh words from the Word:

New notes to sing, new and ancient ways to live.

*One: The colour green represents activism and responsibility.*

All: Radical One, you have told us what is good:

To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

Give us the strength to work for what is right

That your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*One: The colour blue represents the arts and creativity.*

All: Rainbow God of the covenant,

Send your creative Spirit on your people,

That we may embrace the beauty of all humanity,

Your myriad masterpieces in Christ.

*One: The colour purple represents community.*

All: Holy One, Sacred Three:

You are the One Community before all time,

The dance that spills over in the gift of creation.

Give us one mind, heart and spirit as the Body of Christ,

The grace to hold each other across our differences,  
And the willingness to sing a new song  
to a beautiful and hurting world.

We commit to being the Rainbow People of God.

In Jesus' name: Amen.

A Blessing for Pride month [You Are Loved]

By Rev. Alissa Bender (Hamilton Mennonite Church)

**You are loved**

From before the foundation of the world

By a Creator who dreamed you into being

You are loved

When you sit down and when you rise up

When you dance at the height of joy or wait in the quiet depths

You are loved

For all within you that does not conform to this world

For all that is creative, queer, and transformative

You are loved

Even if the light of love was once covered and hidden from you

Even if you once sought to cover and conquer the light

You are loved

When you hear and heed the call to renewal

When you grow more fully into compassion's clothing

You are loved

When you lift your voice and justice rolls down like waters

When you open your heart for comfort and strength in work and word

You are loved

For you are the home address of the Holy Spirit

For you are the living place of the Living God

You are so dearly loved.

Psalm 139: 1-8

O LORD, thou hast searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup>Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up;  
thou discernest my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup>Thou searchest out my path and my lying down,  
and art acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>Thou dost beset me behind and before,  
and layest thy hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high, I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup>Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?  
Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, thou art there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there!

Acts 8: 26-39

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south<sup>[a]</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ <sup>31</sup> He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.’

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As

they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?'<sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip<sup>39</sup> baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.