

Prayers Inspired by Fratelli Tutti
(On Fraternity and Social Friendship)

A Prayer for Community

God, you created all human beings,
equal in dignity and worth.

Inspire in us a spirit of friendship
that reaches across cultures, faiths, and languages.

Help us to follow the example of Saint Francis,
who in a time of war reached out to the enemy,
and of the Good Samaritan,
who helped a fellow human in need.

As we gather today
renew in us a yearning for unity,
a commitment to community,
and a desire to work for a more beautiful world.

A Prayer for Wisdom & Courage

True wisdom is born of encounter –
encounter with truth
encounter with suffering
encounter with others.

As we gather together
give us open arms to welcome others,
curious minds to question why,
and courageous hearts to work for change.

A Prayer for Justice

Help us to ask the important questions:

Who has hoarded all the food,
that this child should be hungry?

Why are some carefree,
while others struggle to survive?

When this worker is underpaid,
where do the profits go?

There is an empire of money
that is blind to suffering.

There is a callousness of heart
that is deaf to the cries of the poor.

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear
and minds to imagine
justice for all.

A Sending-Forth Prayer for Encounter

God of us all,
You call us out of ourselves
and into relationship with one another.

Sometimes it's hard to reach out to others,
especially to people who are different from us.
We feel afraid
and want to stay in our comfortable bubble.

Yet when we are rooted in our own histories,
our own cultures, our own stories,
we find the strength to welcome others.

As we go forth from here,
help us then, to not be afraid.
Give us the courage to seek the margins,
to meet new people, and to create community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.