



*A Prayer for Community*  
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## **A PRAYER FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY!<sup>1</sup>**

Our Father in heaven,

It is by your power and pleasure that we live! What is more, you have appointed the day and place we occupy. We come to you, then, to call on your name for those among whom we live.

You have given over history the gifts and the grit needed to build our community. You have raised up fathers and mothers, educators, tradesmen, firefighters, policemen and policewomen, public officials, churches, volunteers, and those involved in the caring professions, to name a few of our community leaders. Along the way, you have used the rich variations among us, and overruled our tensions and divisions.

We seek your forgiveness for our sins, help for our shortcomings, and justice for our community. Keep abuse from our families, error from our schools, despair from our singles, fear from our elderly, corruption from our businesses and political leaders, bitterness from our spirits, addictions from our lives, and violence from our streets. Grant role models to our children and youth, work to the unemployed, purpose and comfort to the disabled, wisdom to our public officials, and safety to our first responders.

Above all, we pray that your glory and greatness will be made known among us, your churches revived, and the lost in our community reach with your love and truth. Strengthen your people to hold Christ high, by lip and by life.

These blessings we request, confident of your existence, love, and patience, coming to you always and only through Jesus, “the one mediator between God and men” (1 Timothy 2:5). Amen (i.e., “So let it be”).

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from “A Prayer for the Westside [Grand Rapids],” *The Way*, June 2016.