



A Prayer from the Moderator

Renew the church, God, Renew the church.

Cause us to see your glory, high and lifted up, a glory and majesty that is beyond anything human hands have made, or human minds can imagine. Drive us to our knees in awe before you.

In beauty you made the earth, the sea, the sky; in complexity beyond our ability to comprehend you created the universe.

In love and faithfulness, you have kept your covenant with humanity. When we have been faithless, you have been faithful; when we have wandered from the path that leads to life, you have never failed to call us to return.

We love you, God. Teach us to love you with all our heart and mind and soul and strength.

In your Son, Jesus Christ, we see your glory revealed, your love lived, and your mercy on full display.

We are astounded that the Son of God would come to live among us, taking our form, even becoming a servant. The Incarnation draws from us wonder and awe. For the Word become flesh we praise, O God.

In grace and mercy, Jesus came among us, showing us the depth of your love and your forgiveness. In his death on the cross we see how far you were willing to go to call us to yourself, to make the way for us to be reconciled to you.

God, you cause holy laughter to burst forth across the world, for you raised Jesus Christ to life again. In the resurrection you have won the victory over sin and death and hell. Cause us to live in the joyful laughter of the resurrection.

Help us to fall in love with Jesus again.

Through the Holy Spirit, you have equipped us to proclaim your love and mercy revealed in Jesus and his death and resurrection, to proclaim that love in our words and in our deeds.

Your Spirit has gifted us, clay jars that we are, with spiritual gifts to build up your church. We are amazed and humbled that you would gift us in this way.

Send the Holy Spirit to take our groans which are too deep for words, to bring them to you.

Fill us with love for the Holy Spirit.

Triune God of grace, renew the church that we might proclaim the mystery of Jesus Christ, worthily magnify your name, as empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, moderator of the 2017 General Assembly*