

# The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday June 11, 2006

On this day in 1739, restricted by fellow Anglican clergy, John Wesley said: “I look upon all the world as my parish.”

On this day in 1799, Richard Allen was made a Methodist deacon, but years earlier, due to white racism, he'd had to set up a separate church for his fellow blacks.

And on this day in 1936, forced out by liberalizing Presbyterians, orthodox Presbyterians joined together for worship and ministry.

We Christians aren't always faithful. Let us pray.

Lord: We thank You for the forgiveness we've been granted again this morning. We know we as easily turn to our own self-serving agendas as our forebears turned to theirs. And we as easily miss Your Spirit's movement in our day as many of them missed it then. With wisdom of hindsight, we see what only some saw then and we'd like to think that we'd have been among those who were sensitive to Your Spirit's moving back then. But sober assessment says we probably would not, as we'd have been as preoccupied with ourselves then as we are today. So, as we recall the sad mistakes and sins of the past, give us obedient hearts that we might see – even now – what we'd want to see looking back with the wisdom of future hindsight. May we remember that Your heart is always with the outcast and the powerless, the widow, the orphan, the friendless.

Lord, in this week that marks a quarter century struggle with AIDS around the world, we're aware that this virus will kill more people than any epidemic in history. So we pray for wisdom and compassion as efforts are made to deal with it. May all who can take steps to prevent and treat infection, do so. And may those who cannot take such steps – the unborn, children enslaved in a worldwide sex trade, wives at the mercy of abusive husbands, gay teens made homeless by hateful parents – and all other victims of oppression, find the help and support they need. And may we who are called by Your gracious name do all we can, with all You've given us, to be there for all of them.

And now Lord, as this congregation of Your Church begins a final summertime of worshipping You together, may we do so with fresh faith and gratitude for Your amazing grace and peace to us. May all that we have yet to do be done to Your greater glory and in the matchless name of Jesus, who taught us, his followers, to pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.