

Groups of the Spirit (GOTS) | Gathering Prayer | A Prayer for Ever-widening Circles

Adapted from the GOTS mission, BCP 840 #7, and Kaleidoscope Institute (Eric Law) resources

Prayer Intentions:

- Weave God into the mix, given GOTS are church-sponsored gatherings ☺
- Honor our Mission Covenant Goals of supporting faith formation across all ages and stages, deepening our welcome (of our diverse journeys of faith), building authentic relationships across similarities and differences, and to create a shared experience across the various GOTS.

Instructions:

1. Choose a prayer leader to lead this prayer, near the beginning of your time together.
2. If you don't have copies for everyone, find it online at <http://saintjudes.org/groups-spirit-gots>
3. All are invited to share during in the "circle payer" section, and of course, each may "pass for now" or "pass" all together!

Prayer Leader:

Let us pray: Loving God, as we gather around shared interests to begin this season of small groups – intentionally to get to know each other in a relaxed and fun manner, welcome and integrate newcomers, and foster a deeper sense of belonging – we pause to remember that you created all peoples in your image, and we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world, including the diversity represented in our group...

Circle prayer:

Going around the circle, each are invited to share in a word or phrase one thing about yourself that feels unique. You may "pass for now" and we will return to you before continuing or you may "pass" altogether. After all have had an opportunity to share, then close with...

All: **Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**