

Congregational Prayer – Prodigal Child

O God, you roll away our disgrace,
you welcome all sinners, even us, to eat with you.
You are our hiding place and you surround us with glad songs of deliverance.
You see within us a new creation emerging,
and you have reconciled us to yourself through Christ.
Take and carry these prayers we have lifted to you.
Show us all of the unexpected ways you will answer the cries of our hearts.
Take and carry the prayers that have not been given voice today.
Hear also our prayers when we sit alone like your prodigal child,
hungry for things around us that will not feed us.
Hear us when we come to ourselves and reach for you.
Hear our prayers when we don't know how to join the party.
Hear us when our attachment to propriety keeps us from the glorious mess of your grace.
Hear our prayers when we are the ones waiting at the window –
for whatever it is that will restore us to ourselves,
restore us to community, restore us to relationship with you.
It is you we pray to, O God, and you we seek with hungry hearts.
Show us the way to the banquet that Jesus described in his parables
and prepared us for in his living, his dying, and his rising.
We pray in his name, Amen.

Alissa Bender (Canada), 2019.

[Creative Commons: Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)