

A prayer offering: *Moving Forward in Grace*

God of the least, the last, the lost, the powerful and powerless, the popular and the political, we come before you seeking a way forward as your people, called by your name.

Hear us as we humble ourselves before you. Strip away all of our idols, until all we have is you. We want to be like you, full of grace, with a deep hunger for reconciliation.

Give us the courage to seek forgiveness from those we seek to exclude. Open our hearts to truly hear the cries of the needy, the fearful, and the misunderstood.

Give us strength as we choose to give the “other” grace, to give the misinformed grace, to give the prideful grace. Allow us the mercy to love others as you have loved us, so the world that is watching might find hope.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and help us move forward together in Christ, not leaning on our own understandings but on our faith in you and in your desire for the salvation of us all. Amen.

—*Bishop Peggy Johnson, Eastern PA Conference Week of Prayer, January 8-14, 2017*