

A Collect for Thanksgiving

Making Space for Divine Hospitality

Most gracious and welcoming God, the One who comes to us as a neighbor and a stranger, an immigrant and a brother: You are a God of hospitality. No one measures up to your openhearted spirit. You warmly invite all to come to you, creating space for us in your home, at your table, and in your loving arms. You draw out our particular stories while revealing ways in which each one is knitted together in a community called to love, serve, and hope.

Help us, God of love, when it is difficult to reflect your divine hospitality. Give us eyes to see new possibilities in difficult relationships. Make our hearts big enough to make room for someone else—especially the “someone” the world designates as stranger, as alien, as “not one of us,” and even as enemy.

For we know that when we learn to make a way for all to be welcome—whatever they are, wherever they are, however they are—we catch a glimpse of your kingdom. For in welcoming angels and aliens alike, we meet you there, ever calling us into a life of transforming love.

We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who, in the power of your Spirit, opened doors and broke barriers so that all may experience your grace. Thanks be to God! Amen.