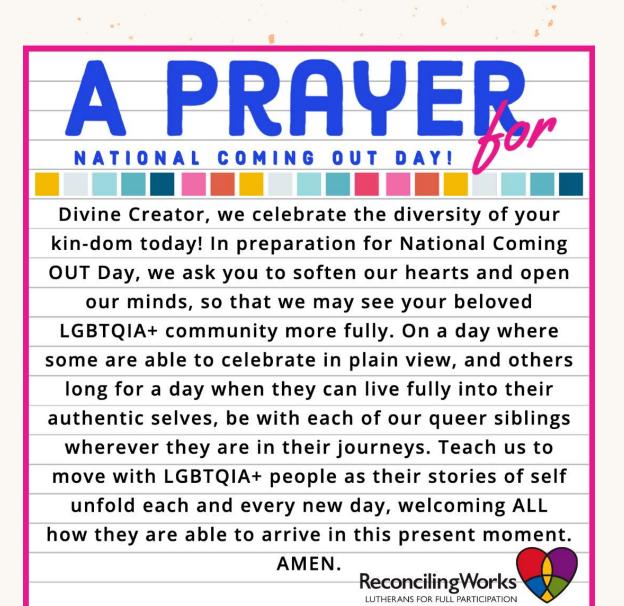
October 9, 2022 NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY Themed Prayers

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Divine Creator, we celebrate the diversity of your kin-dom today! In preparation for National Coming OUT Day, we ask you to soften our hearts and open our minds, so that we may see your beloved LGBTQIA+ community more fully. On a day where some are able to celebrate in plain view, and others long for a day when they can live fully into their authentic selves, be with each of our queer siblings wherever they are in their journeys. Teach us to move with LGBTQIA+ people as their stories of self unfold each and every new day, welcoming ALL how they are able to arrive in this present moment. **AMEN**.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need...

For the planet and all of creation, bring waves of new life and healing across this earth. Provide safety and comfort to those affected by natural disasters of fires and hurricanes, earthquakes and flood. God, guide your people to be caretakers of this fragile planet, making moves to create a future where we can continue to praise the stunning beauty of the colors, sounds, creatures, and infinite galaxies you have made. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those sick and hurt, hungry and in need of healing. For the homeless, addicted, refugee and stranger. Fill us with compassion to see the needs of your people and lead from hearts and minds of curiosity rather than judgement. We desire to listed to what your people are crying out for us to hear, and how are you inviting us to be better stewards of hospitality. As your children, we prepare to listen to the gifts you have given us through the Spirit, and seek Jesus' example to work for justice.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Naming God, you know us by name and call us by name. Names hold value from the ways in which we address one another, to the words that help us share with others who we know ourselves to be. This Tuesday is National Coming OUT Day; a day to acknowledge the experience of the LGBTQIA+ community, and what it means to "come out." Let us rewrite our understanding this day of what it means to "come out," an action requiring people to practice vulnerability for our comfort, and let it be a moment where we are invited into deeper relationship; being given the chance to better see who someone has come to know themselves to be.

Holy Comforter, we acknowledge that not everyone is ready or able to celebrate National Coming OUT Day openly. From fear of harm and judgement, protection of self and general safety, be with our LGBTQIA+ siblings who are not able to acknowledge their identities fully and wrap them in your loving embrace. For those who are celebrating for the first time, or those who have been able to live fully and authentically in their wholeness for years past, continue to show them they are known and loved by You and this community. Let us all be reminded of the importance of visibility and safe spaces for the beloved queer community to know they are loved fully at any point in their journey of self-discovery. God of grace, hear our prayer.

With your Spirit of grace and acceptance, send us out into the world proclaiming how we are all made, known, and loved – fully and wholly.
Amen.
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