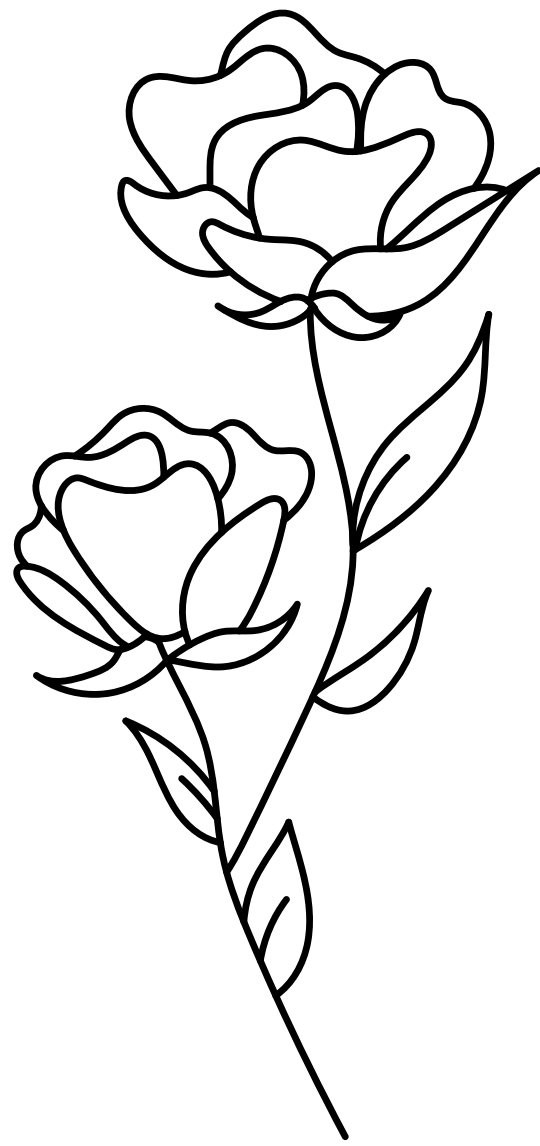




Almighty and merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than our sin. Forgive us of our sins, Lord. For our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering and oppression of others, our apathy towards injustice and wrongdoing, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Lord, have mercy upon us. Heal us and forgive us. And lead us, by your Spirit, to serve you in the world as agents of your justice, peace, and reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONFESSIO N OF SIN



Let us stop, before rushing to problem solving and fixing when this situation is so dire. Let us stop, at least for a moment, and lament together. Let us stand in solidarity with our black brothers and sisters who continue to experience such tragic loss; let us mourn with them the loss and affirm that their lives matter. Be their portion and cup. Hear their cry for help, and carry this burden for them, Sovereign Ruler of all. Comfort them and hear the calls of sighing for all of the black community. Let us also grieve for the law enforcement officers and bystanders who lost their lives while trying to keep the peace. Heal hurting hearts as only you can, Father. Break these sinful strongholds in our hearts and culture, and flood us with grace and forgiveness. Let us acknowledge the complexity that we don't have the answers, but we serve an amazing God who does when we allow you to lead us in every step. We cry out to you God together for the peace and justice that only you can bring when we fix our eyes and hearts on you.

PRAYER OF LAMENT



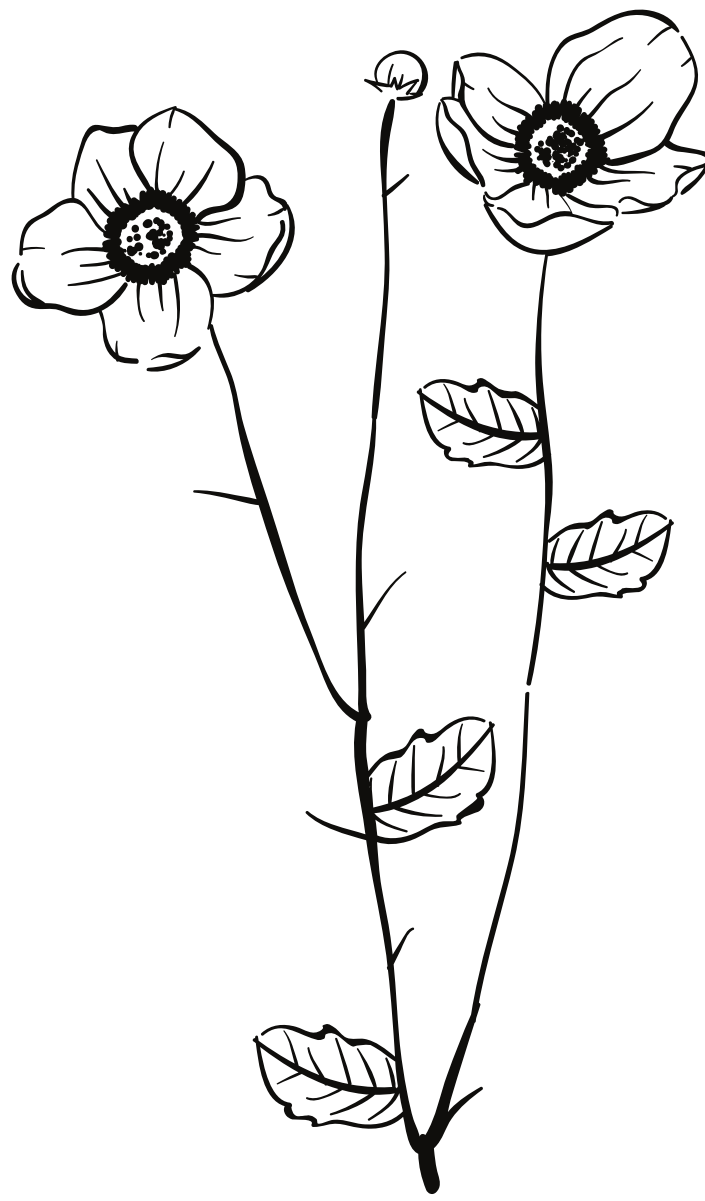
Heavenly Father, Your Word says you are the hope for the hopeless. And so as we wrestle today with pain, confusion, frustration, and anger, we fix our eyes and our hearts on You. Jesus, the eternal hope you offer us through salvation is an anchor for our souls, and we rejoice that You have overcome the world! We know that one day all things will be restored and made right. But in the here and now, Lord, as we wait and ache for that day, let the work of the church, the love of your people, and the peace that only You can give, be a glimpse to a hurting world of the glory that is to come. I pray that we at Mountain Brook Community Church will rise up as the body of Christ to be a light and to faithfully preach Your Word, praise your Name, and proclaim You as the only Hope in a broken world. Father, the task that lies before us seems daunting, but we find hope in the knowledge that You can do exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine.

PRAYER FOR HOPE



Father, as believers and followers of Christ we are heartbroken by the recent events throughout our country. We collectively ask for forgiveness on behalf of our land. Help us Lord to be united in the conviction that only the message of the Gospel can heal the division of our people and can bring the unity that you envisioned when you spoke to the Father before returning to Heaven when you said: "keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be ONE, even as we are one. And for those of who are outside of the faith, remind us that we share with them the reality that we are all your image bearers, and as such we owe them our utmost respect and to be sensitive to their particular plots in life. May all this be to your glory and the building of your Kingdom on earth.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR UNITY



Heavenly Father, we know that Scripture clearly teaches us, that You are just, and that You love and desire justice, even more so than sacrifice. There is no doubt, because of our sinfulness, and our lack of attention and understanding, that we fail to see much of the injustice in our world, and that we fail to act on the injustice that is around us. Please forgive us. Father, please help us to know, in keeping with Your character, that the justice that You so love, and that You desire for us to seek, embodies equity, equality, fairness, impartiality, mercy, compassion, and understanding, all of which lead to unity and peace. Please open our eyes to see injustice, clear our ears to really listen and understand, and break our hearts in order to compel us to always seek justice for everyone, especially those that are marginalized, the poor, the downtrodden, and those that are unable to help themselves, remembering that every person is an image-bearer of You, and a soul that You know intimately and love dearly.

PRAYER FOR JUSTICE