

Prayer for Truthful Love on the 250th Anniversary of the United States

God of all nations,

On this 250th anniversary of the United States, we come before You with gratitude, humility, and holy unease.

We give thanks for every act of courage, sacrifice, creativity, and hope that has helped make life possible in this land. We give thanks for those who dreamed of freedom, organized for justice, cared for neighbors, welcomed strangers, and insisted that the nation live more fully into the promises it proclaimed.

Yet we also confess that celebration without truth becomes idolatry. We remember that this land was already beloved before it was called America. We remember Indigenous nations, descendants of enslaved Africans, immigrants, refugees, and communities across the globe whose labor, land, resources, and lives have too often been treated as expendable.

Christ, meet us in this moment. Free us from the need to defend what must be confessed. Free us from despair that prevents repair. Teach us to love this country without worshiping it, to critique it without giving up on Your power to transform it, and to see our neighbors not as threats but as members of one human family.

Expand our vision beyond borders. Help us understand that our choices here affect children, workers, farmers, families, and fragile communities around the world. Make us people who seek peace over domination, repair over extraction, welcome over exclusion, and truth over comforting myths.

May this anniversary become more than pageantry. May it become an altar of recommitment. Let us love not only in words or speech, but in truth and action.

In the name of Jesus, who stands with the wounded and makes all things new,
Amen.