

## Congregational Prayer for the LGBTQ2SIA+ Community

Loving God, you are the source of all creation. You have made all things beautiful, and diverse in your image. As we lift up the diversity of your creation, you have taught us to love people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

As affirming congregations, you have led us to love as Jesus taught us to love. You have opened our hearts and set a fire in us. You have invited us to treat each other in ways that honour and value the worth that is inside us all. Loving Spirit, you have taught us compassion like no other.

During these times of isolation, we are still passionate for the work of social justice and advocating for the full participation of our LGBTQ2SIA+ siblings in the church and this world.

We see and hear that many of our LGBTQ2SIA+ siblings are unsafe at this time of isolation. They are forced to stay home with non-affirming families or friends. Not being able to escape the confinements of their homes and families by going to their own safe heavens such as Pride festivals, queer bars, GSA's, or support groups. We see you, we hear you, and we grieve with you. Know that you are not alone.

Many are living in fear for their lives as they are immunocompromised due to HIV/AIDS. For many in our community, this pandemic is a direct trigger to how they lived through the AIDS crisis. Losing friends and family to a disease with no cure.

For our transgender and non-binary siblings, we grieve with you as you remain on the waitlist for surgeries. It has taken years to finally get to where you are and to have it postponed is gut-wrenching and painful. We are here to hold you during this time.

Welcoming One, walk alongside your leaders in this church. The members, visitors, staff and pastors and grant them the ability to make everyone feel and be welcomed in your presence.

Lord, hear our prayers. In your loving and grace-filled mercy, we follow you and are called to take care of our LGBTQ2SIA+ siblings.

*Affirming Ministries*  
*United Church of Canada*

