

Wave of Prayer 5—June 25, 2022

The Summit of the Americas held its 9th meeting in Los Angeles from June 4 to 10. Because Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela were not invited (in the name of fostering democracy), other nations (Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) refused to attend.

- **God, we thank you that there are attempts at collaboration and unity among the countries of the Americas. We pray that these nations will continue to work together effectively to deal with migration, climate change, the pandemic, and other challenges. We pray for inclusion, rather than exclusion, among nations and people. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

This year is the second year that Juneteenth is a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. While June 19 is an opportunity to talk about what Jonathan Capehart describes as “this nation’s foundational wound,” some individuals and school districts are making it difficult to teach what Juneteenth is about—that our country was built with slave labor.

- **God, we acknowledge that our country was built with slave labor. We pray that we will not shy away from acknowledging systemic racism in both the past and the present and that we will work towards its end. We pray for justice for all. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

More than 250 mass shootings in the U.S. have killed more than 250 people and injured more than 1,000 already in 2022. On June 24, with bipartisan support, Congress passed the most significant gun control bill in 30 years. While gun safety group March for our Lives and many individuals welcome this bill, the National Rifle Association and many individuals oppose it. Our country is divided on this issue.

- **God, we pray for all those affected by mass shootings—those who’ve died, those who’ve been injured, those who’ve carried out the shootings, and all the families involved. We pray for grace and redemption, safety and security, and an end to mass shootings. We pray for the ability of Congress to work together, as it has here. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

Another issue which deeply divides our country is abortion. On June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 landmark decision, Roe v. Wade, which gave women the constitutional right to abortion. The overturning of Roe v. Wade will allow states to determine a woman’s access to abortion.

- **God, we pray for our country at this time of deep division. We know there are people on both sides of the abortion debate who are sincere in their faith and who seek to follow you. We pray for understanding, wisdom, love, and compassion as we think about the Supreme Court’s decision and our own actions moving forward. Loving God, we offer you our prayer.**

Natural disasters in the world affect thousands and millions of people. As hurricane season begins in the U.S., many in SE Louisiana still suffer as a result of Hurricane Ida in 2021. Excessive heat is impacting people around the world. Severe flooding has affected many in India, Bangladesh, and China. The June 22 earthquake in Afghanistan has left great destruction and more than 1000 people dead.

- **God, we pray for all those affected by natural disasters. Give the victims a sense of your presence and the strength needed to rebuild their lives. Give those providing relief the stamina and support they need to work in these difficult situations. Help us as individuals know how to offer aid. Loving God, we pray for all in the world who suffer.**