God of Spirit, God of Love,

I come before you with deep and tender thanksgiving for this People of Prayer; for the love we have shared in the midst of struggle and death, joy and dance, song and sadness, worship and work.

I come before you with confidence that your care for them is constant; your hope for them is joyful

and your help for them is present in the daytime and in the dark.

God of Spirit, God of Love,

Thank you for the baptismal journeys of Isaac and Dean;

continue to carry them in your loving river of life.

You see how Dean nurtures children in home and in scouts;

Strengthen him with joy,

and honor him with your holy wisdom.

Tend to Isaac’s body, mind and spirit that he may live with gladness into his name “Laughter”.

God of Spirit, God of Love,

We bring before you those whose bodies are in need of repair.

You have the power to touch each cell and restore each organ.

To destroy cancer and Fabrys and chronic pain

and to strengthen minds and hearts.

And so we set before you

Bess’s brother, Rob

Jeff’s brother, Kevin

Denise and her mother Barbra

We place into your keeping the little ones:

Kaden and Clara, Curtis and Charleston

Remind us and do not let us forget Marshall.

Fill his spirit with light that as each morning breaks so too his strength would be refreshed. Dare we ask, God, that Marshall’s body restored to its former glory? Not in our imagination, but in yours, we ask for this miracle through the authority of Jesus Christ.

God of Spirit, God of Love,

What are we to say about the empty store fronts of Tontogany?

You have turned your face away from them long enough;

Long enough LORD, long enough.

Now bring life from the 4 winds and blow the cobwebs out;

clear the useless boxes of clutter;

and blow your Spirit through every door and set beauty in every window. Raise up investors who share your vision and pour out your resources with extravagant hope.

Let the 4 corners bustle with joyful customers and prosperous merchants.

When teenagers join together to spruce up the downtown

and old ones sit on the benches and tell Benny Fouts stories

and little ones dance in the streets

and artists show off their creations

and bakers share their bread

and strangers come from far away to see what all the fuss is about

then we shall praise your name and say to one another,

the Spirit of God and the spirit of Janice is in this place.

God of Spirit, God of Love,

Finally, I set before your throne of grace your People of Prayer.

I ask that through the sure presence of your Holy Spirit

and the sacrificial love of Jesus

that faith abound in their hearts;

goodness saturate their minds;

generosity open their hands;

holiness bolster their souls;

compassion move their feet;

thanksgiving draw them to worship;

hopefulness form their community;

humility mark their relationships;

wonder spark their spirits;

and your extravagant love be poured through them into the world to bring forth kindness, honor, justice and peace.

And so we pray together as you taught us to pray…