

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

—*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 815



**TUESDAY, MARCH 8**

I have been thinking about the words power and privilege. Who has power? How does one receive it? What does it mean to have privilege? Our earthly definition of power as coming from wealth, gender, authority or other sources is one big illusion. We all possess power, not because anyone gave it to us, but because we are children of God.

Privilege is different; it's borne out of many things. During this season, I am taking a closer look at how I am living into my own power and privilege. I can use my power for love or hate. I can use my privilege to further the kingdom of God or to fulfill my earthly desires. I was born into privilege I do not deserve. I can pretend the world isn't broken and that the lives and well-being of others doesn't matter. Or I can reread the last line of our baptismal covenant that says, "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" and respond, "I will, with God's help." That is my choice through prayer and intentionality.

Everywhere, people are in situations outside of their control. It's our responsibility to love, serve and protect all people, with God's help.

—**Jennifer Korwan**