**Prayer for Practice #1) ACCESS Spiritual Power: Consciously connect with the indwelling God to rediscover our belovedness, our God-given power, and our place within God’s evolving universe.** In the Personal Dimension, we acknowledge and name the destructive powers we experience in our lives, and seek the God of love, whose life-giving power is **accessible** through our embodied experience in creation**.**

**Let us Pray. Indwelling God of Love, your power is accessible right here and right now, in our embodied experience in creation. In the air we breathe. In the food we eat. In the relationships we cultivate with beings of all kinds. And yet we are so often distracted and disoriented by the destructive powers we experience in our lives, that we forget our own belovedness. We forget the God-given power we do have. We forget our sacred place within your evolving universe. And so today we acknowledge and name those destructive powers, those forces that diminish and degrade our humanity, that dehumanize others and destroy the very life-support system of this miraculous planet we inhabit. We name and acknowledge some of these forces now:...(name the forces that come to mind).... And instead we turn to you, God of love, to empower us to restore a right relationship with ourselves, so that we may be channels of your love and agents of transformation in this beautiful world you continue to create. Amen**



**Prayer for Practice #1) ACCESS Spiritual Power: Consciously connect with the indwelling God to rediscover our belovedness, our God-given power, and our place within God’s evolving universe.** In the Interpersonal Dimension we *acknowledge* the ways we isolate ourselves and objectify others, and instead **access** the power of love by awakening to God’s indwelling presence in the people and other members of God’s creation we encounter.

**Let us Pray. Indwelling God of Love, we come to you today having been steeped in a culture of individualism and consumerism; a culture that thrives on keeping people isolated; a culture that benefits the few while objectifying the many. Today we acknowledge the ways in which we participate in this distorted culture, the ways in which we isolate ourselves and objectify others. This is often difficult to admit. It may be difficult for us to see how we isolate ourselves. It can be especially difficult to accept our participation in the objectification of others. And so we humbly turn to you for healing, and open ourselves to seeing and receiving your very presence, in the people and other members of God’s creation we encounter. And we pray that starting right now, we will indeed have eyes to see your indwelling presence in every being we encounter today, and for all days to come. Amen**



**Prayer for Practice #1) ACCESS Spiritual Power: Consciously connect with the indwelling God to rediscover our belovedness, our God-given power, and our place within God’s evolving universe.** For our Faith Communities, we acknowledge the ways we have allowed our Scriptures and traditions to be misused as weapons against many, and instead **access** the power of the God of love to reclaim the rituals and resources of our faiths to honor human dignity and the integrity of creation.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, as people of faith, we give thanks for our ancestors of the faith who have passed down scriptures and songs, rituals and traditions, over the centuries and often at great personal and communal risk. And at the same time we acknowledge that those very scriptures and songs, rituals and traditions have also been used as weapons against many. And we confess that in our own lifetimes we have allowed this misuse to continue. And so we come to you today asking for the willingness to name and release the harmful practices we may have received, and the courage to reclaim the rituals and resources of our faith, to honor human dignity and the integrity of creation. Amen**



**Prayer for Practice #1) ACCESS Spiritual Power: Consciously connect with the indwelling God to rediscover our belovedness, our God-given power, and our place within God’s evolving universe.** In the Public Sphere, we *acknowledge* our collective failures in acting for justice, and instead **access** the power of the indwelling God of love, who works through public efforts to advance human and environmental justice.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, there are so many reasons for our collective failures in acting for justice — lack of vision, lack of courage, lack of strong relationships; or perhaps the responsibilities of life are simply too overwhelming, or the privileges of our social standing too comfortable; or perhaps the pain from our histories are too debilitating, or the distractions of our culture too numbing. Whatever the reasons for our collective failures in acting for justice, we bring them to you for healing. For the perpetuation of injustice is an affront to your very presence in the world. And we pray that your love would transform all our denials into determination; all our reluctance into resilience; all our excuses — legitimate or otherwise — into expressions of solidarity, action and courage, for public efforts to advance human and environmental justice. Amen**



**Prayer for Practice #2) DEVELOP Relationships: Consciously awaken the power-among that arises when we engage in authentic conversation and relationship.** In the Personal Dimension, we **develop** a compassionate relationship with our powerful yet limited selves as beloved by the indwelling God, and deeply connected to all other powerful yet limited beings.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, in a dualistic culture that compels us to see things as either/or, right and wrong, good and bad, we pray this day for the wisdom to recognize the richness of the both/and, both around us and within us. Grant us the wisdom to recognize both our limitations as well as our tremendous power; our stunning uniqueness as well as our interconnectedness. When we slide too far to one side — believing we are too limited to make a difference, or developing a savior complex and carrying the world on our shoulders; idolizing our perspectives and opinions, or losing our voice and sense of self within the community — gently and compassionately call us back to wholeness so that we may hold the both/ands together with compassion and gentleness. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #2) DEVELOP Relationships: Consciously awaken the power-among that arises when we engage in authentic conversation and relationship.** In the Interpersonal Dimension, we **develop** relationships with other peoples, lands, and creatures, discovering our respective interests, and seeking to see the world from other points of view.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, although we may consciously know the importance of relationships and seeing things from another’s perspective, and we may even have experienced the power and energy that comes when we engage in authentic conversation, still we often fail to prioritize the intentional practice of developing relationships, with not only peoples, but the land and creatures of our shared planet as well. Grant us the will and the discipline to consciously develop relationships with human and all other earth beings, so that we may awaken the power-among — the power that too-often lies dormant between us, the power that can change everything, the power that is Love. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #2) DEVELOP Relationships: Consciously awaken the power-among that arises when we engage in authentic conversation and relationship.** In our Faith Communities, we disrupt the culture of isolation by **developing** relational cultures within and among diverse human communities, and between those communities and the natural world.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, all too often our faith communities simply replicate the culture of isolation in which we are steeped, rather than building enduring, authentic relationships of both vulnerability and power. Like the prophets who have gone before us, grant us the courage to disrupt the culture of isolation with the power of Love; the courage to reach toward one another to weave a web of strong relationships; the courage to reach beyond the walls of our communities to extend that strong web of Love to other communities and to the natural world. And grant us faith to trust that the power-among that arises from this web is the power through which you heal us and the world. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #2) DEVELOP Relationships: Consciously awaken the power-among that arises when we engage in authentic conversation and relationship.** In the Public Sphere, we **develop** relationships of accountability between diverse human communities and public leaders, for the sake of restoring public commitment to the common good and the community of creation.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, as power-among awakens and grows in our developing relationships, and as we extend those relationships to include public leaders, we pray for the wisdom and courage, love and conviction to hold our public leaders accountable to their commitments to the common good and the community of creation. Grant us also, God of Love, the joyful willingness to allow ourselves to be held accountable to our own commitments to the common good and the community of creation. Guide and strengthen all our relationships of accountability, infusing them with love and a tireless commitment to the well being of all. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #3) DISCOVER our Stories: Consciously recognize the power of God’s presence at work within our lived experience, the lives of others, and the stories of the places we live.** In the Personal Dimension, we discover the power of our own stories, and the ways our stories have been shaped by the land as well as our cultures, economies, religious traditions, political systems, and personal and collective histories.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, Who am I? Who are we? What is my story? What are our stories? We give you thanks for the stories of our faith passed down from generation to generation, and yet we are often unaware that our lives are also part of your story that continues to be written. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear and courage to discover how our stories have been shaped by land, cultures, economies, traditions, systems and histories around and within us; and in discovering our stories, grant us the grace to discover that our stories are indeed part of your ever-evolving story of life and love in action. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #3) DISCOVER our Stories: Consciously recognize the power of God’s presence at work within our lived experience, the lives of others, and the stories of the places we live.** In the Interpersonal Dimension, we discover the transformative power of our stories by sharing our stories with others, and inviting others to share their stories with us, paying special attention to peoples and creatures whose stories have been silenced.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, we are barraged with so many stories — in the news and on social media, through advertisements, shows and movies. Many of these stories are manipulated to manipulate us, many are designed to distract and disempower, and many we simply tune out because we are overwhelmed. Yet you call us to a deeper kind of story-sharing. You call us to share our stories with others, and to listen deeply to the stories others share with us. You call us to seek out the stories of those who have been silenced, and to allow those stories to break and heal our hearts. We pray for ears to hear and courage to share the silenced stories and to let those stories lead the way to transformation. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #3) DISCOVER our Stories: Consciously recognize the power of God’s presence at work within our lived experience, the lives of others, and the stories of the places we live.** In our Faith Communities, we discover common interests and the public dimensions of our stories through organized, focused listening seasons within and between our communities.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, it is sometimes hard enough to believe that my story is part of your story; that your presence is powerfully at work in my life and in the lives of all the people, creatures and places I encounter. And yet not only are you present in our stories, your power is even more deeply revealed when we share our stories, and together discover the common interests and public dimensions among them. And so today we pray for the vision and the discipline to listen to our shared stories, and to find the sacred threads that weave them all together, even if those threads are full of sorrow or pain. And may your power be made known through those threads that unite us and inspire us to action. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #3) DISCOVER our Stories: Consciously recognize the power of God’s presence at work within our lived experience, the lives of others, and the stories of the places we live.** In the Public Sphere, we discover our collective power by sharing our stories in the public arena to develop as community leaders and advance human and environmental justice.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, can it be that we discover our collective power by sharing our stories in the public sphere? Can it be that our stories themselves contain the flame that sparks the fire of love and collective power among us? Can it be that transformation for human and environmental justice is made possible because of our courage to share and organize around our stories? It is sometimes hard to believe that our stories can indeed have that much power, but today we pray for the courage to trust that the power of your presence is, in fact, at work within our lived experience, in the lives of others, and in the stories of the places we live. And in that trust, we boldly share our stories to mature as leaders, and to advance justice for the whole earth community. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #4) MENTOR One Another: Consciously draw out the gifts, wisdom and life-giving power of others, and share our own, by mentoring and being mentored.** In the Personal Dimension, recognizing the deeply relational nature of the universe, we acknowledge our need for mentors from the whole community of creation for the sake of own development as leaders.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, as we grow and develop as leaders, we are often confronted with assumptions about what leadership means — assumptions like always being able to see the way forward, always having our act together, always having the right skill set at the right time and doing the right thing with it. And yet though we honor the gifts we have, we are also only human, and can forget that leadership is much less about the expectations and more about the willingness to keep learning, less about the skill-sets and more about the humility to learn from everyone and everything, including the whole community of creation. Grant us the wisdom and the humility to reach out for mentors as we grow as leaders, and to receive the guidance from mentors in the least likely people, creatures and places we encounter. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #4) MENTOR One Another: Consciously draw out the gifts, wisdom and life-giving power of others, and share our own, by mentoring and being mentored.** In the Interpersonal Dimension, we are mentored by and mentor others, naming the gifts we recognize in one another, and inviting and extending constructive feedback for the sake of our mutual leadership development.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, as we grow and develop as leaders, bless us with the gift of people who will offer us constructive feedback. Bless us with the gift of people who point out our growing edges in love. Bless us with the gift of people who believe in us so much that they will say something that might be hard to hear, for the sake of our own development. And, God of Love, give us the grace to both give and receive constructive feedback with love and respect, taking nothing personally, but taking everything of value to heart, for the sake of our mutual leadership development, and in order to draw out the God-given gifts, wisdom and life-giving power of one another. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #4) MENTOR One Another: Consciously draw out the gifts, wisdom and life-giving power of others, and share our own, by mentoring and being mentored.** In our Faith Communities, we seek to develop mentoring relationships and a culture of mutual-mentoring within all of our communities.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, as we seek to develop more deeply relational cultures within our faith communities, grant us the vision to deepen those relationships even further by creating a culture of mutual-mentoring. God, you have given each and every one of us unique experiences and perspectives, unique skills and gifts. We often hear your call to share those gifts for the sake of the world, but are you calling us also to mentor one another? To draw out each other’s gifts and wisdom through mentoring? To ignite the life-giving power of others, and of our own, by participating in mutual learning and teaching, mutual listening and sharing? Open our eyes today to see the opportunities to mentor another, to receive mentoring, and to build a culture of mutual-mentoring within our communities. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #4) MENTOR One Another: Consciously draw out the gifts, wisdom and life-giving power of others, and share our own, by mentoring and being mentored.** In the Public Sphere, we seek out experienced leaders of public actions to mentor, challenge and teach us as we learn to express our power in the public arena.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, many of us have been conditioned to separate the public sphere from the private sphere. And all too often, our faith and our faith communities are relegated to the private sphere — a sphere where our faith commitments for justice and equality tend to wither and die. And so as we are challenged to act publicly as an expression of our faith, many of us find ourselves anxious and fearful, unsure of how to bring our faith into the public sphere. Give us the courage, God of Love, to seek out and find experienced leaders of public actions, who can mentor us as we learn to express our power in the public arena. And bless our growth in this area, so that we may express your power in the public sphere for the healing of both human and earth communities. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #5) ACT together: Consciously engage the power of collective action, in the service of God’s healing and justice-seeking work for human communities and the whole creation.** In the Personal Dimension, we discern our unique call to participate with others in organized actions, for the sake of mending the brokenness in our communities, and restoring our connection to the places we live.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, there are so many people and places that cry out for your healing. There are so many organizations and causes doing good and beautiful work that I care deeply about. There are so many pressures in my own life that I long for the ability and capacity to address. Protect me, God of Love, from getting overwhelmed, and from falling into despair. Protect me also from succumbing to the culture of individualism that tempts me to fear collective action, to remain isolated, or to settle for doing things alone just because they NEED to get done. Instead, stir in my heart — the place where courage is found — and guide me to people with whom I can take life-giving collective action, for the sake of mending the brokenness in our communities, and restoring our connection to the places we live. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #5) ACT together: Consciously engage the power of collective action, in the service of God’s healing and justice-seeking work for human communities and the whole creation.** In the Interpersonal Dimension, as we recognize our deep interconnectedness with earth and diverse human communities, we identify our mutual interests, and we invite those close to us to join us in acting on those common interests.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, while economic and political forces continue to divide people, break up families and communities, and destroy the web of life, we pray that you continue to reveal to us how deeply connected we are to everyone and everything. Open our hearts to discovering the glorious diversity and uniqueness of human and earth communities, as well as our deep interconnectedness — shared DNA, common longings, and mutual interests. And from our hearts let us find the courage to invite others to join us in acting on those common interests, or to accept the invitations by others to participate in collective action, for healing and justice for all the beloveds in our common home. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #5) ACT together: Consciously engage the power of collective action, in the service of God’s healing and justice-seeking work for human communities and the whole creation.** In our Faith Communities, we nurture relational cultures, identifying common interests and public issues affecting our communities, so that we are ready to act together to promote justice and healing for the whole community of creation.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, the collective power of our faith communities so often goes untapped, unacknowledged, unexpressed. The ways we act together are often so small in relation to your vision of Shalom for earth and all her creatures. We are limited by our imaginations, our fears, and our shallow relationships. Just as on that Pentecost morning, may your Spirit roar through our faith communities, giving us newfound courage and commitment to nurture relational cultures, and find the common interests and public issues affecting our communities, so that, empowered by your Spirit, we are ready to act together to promote justice and healing for the whole community of creation. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #5) ACT together: Consciously engage the power of collective action, in the service of God’s healing and justice-seeking work for human communities and the whole creation.** In the Public Sphere, we join or develop community organizing efforts, through which we identify mutual interests, research issues, conduct power analyses and act together to promote greater justice for human communities and the community of creation.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, where did the illusion of self-sufficiency come from? Whether for ourselves, our families, or our faith communities, how did the idea that we can do anything — much less everything — on our own, come to be normalized, even sanctified? We pray this day for those scales of self-sufficiency to fall from our eyes in every area of our lives. And in our pursuit of healing and justice as a community of faith, lead us to join or develop community organizing efforts so that our moral courage does not wither under the delusion of self-sufficiency, but instead is strengthened through broad, powerful networks of courageous souls acting for justice together. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #6) REFLECT on our Actions: Consciously reflect upon and evaluate our actions and the ways we use power, in order to learn and grow into mature and courageous leaders.** In the Personal Dimension, we evaluate our actions and the ways we use or experience power, integrating what each experience has to teach us, by regularly reflecting, praying, and/or spending time in conscious relationship with the natural world.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, my relationship with power is so complicated. Sometimes I can be entirely unaware of the power I have and how that power affects others. Other times I abdicate my power completely, forgetting that in each and every situation I have the power of choice, even if those choices are limited. Grant me the courage to reflect on my actions, on my choices, and on how I experience and use power every day. Bless me with the humility I need to see myself clearly, and surround me with your grace so I may learn and grow, knowing that maturity as a leader is not a destination but an never-ending journey of discovery. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #6) REFLECT on our Actions: Consciously reflect upon and evaluate our actions and the ways we use power, in order to learn and grow into mature and courageous leaders.** In the Interpersonal Dimension, we reflect with others on our actions, as well as our experience and use of power, gaining wisdom from diverse perspectives, and learning from one another.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, as we aspire to grow into mature and courageous leaders, lead us to trusted colleagues, friends and collaborators who will reflect with us on our actions and the ways we experience and use power. Protect us from the temptation to use other people to simply justify our own perspectives, reinforce our viewpoints, or build cases against others and their uses of power. Instead may we reflect together, gaining wisdom from diverse perspectives and supporting one another to grow in maturity and courage as leaders. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #6) REFLECT on our Actions: Consciously reflect upon and evaluate our actions and the ways we use power, in order to learn and grow into mature and courageous leaders.** In our Faith Communities, we create a culture of reflection and evaluation within our communities, regularly assessing power dynamics, and learning from our gatherings and actions, in order to mature as leaders and communities.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, in our faith communities we often find ourselves so goal-oriented or so task-driven that we make no time for reflection and evaluation of our actions and structures, our programs and our communal culture. And yet what is the price our communities pay for that time we save by not reflecting together? And what learnings do we fail to recognize? Grant us the wisdom, O God, to slow down, to make the time and take the time to reflect and evaluate our actions and the ways we use power. And bless us with the discovery of the richness of this practice so that reflection and evaluation become an integral part of our communal life, for the sake of our maturity as leaders and communities. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #6) REFLECT on our Actions: Consciously reflect upon and evaluate our actions and the ways we use power, in order to learn and grow into mature and courageous leaders.** In the Public Sphere, we collectively reflect on and evaluate the power dynamics of all public actions, including their impact on relationship development, leadership capacity, public systems, marginalized communities and the natural world.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, there is so much to learn, so much to discover when we dare to act together for justice and healing in the public sphere. Grant us the commitment to the practice of reflection and evaluation, and expand our imaginations so that in this practice we are evaluating not only on the efficacy of our particular action, but also the power dynamics within our actions, the effect of our action on the development of our relationships and our leadership capacity, and the impact on marginalized communities and the natural world. For everything is connected; our actions are never done in isolation, and our deep reflection on the many dimensions of our public actions, will help us make right use of our collective power, for the sake of justice and healing in human and earth communities. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #7) RESTORE Balance: Consciously re-align our lives with the sacred and natural rhythms of Life expressed through the whole of God’s creation.** In the Personal Dimension, we restore our bodies and spirits, practicing Sabbath and regaining a balance of work and rest, as modeled in Scripture and creation.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, your magnificent creation, of which I am one small, unique part, is constantly working to restore balance whenever and wherever imbalances occur. In our amazing complexity as human beings we have the wonderful power of choice, which also means that we can — and often do — make choices that lead us out of balance, that compromise our wholeness. Sometimes our imbalance is too much doing and not enough rest. Sometimes it is reflected in our unwillingness to expand our worldview and confront our denial. Imbalances can emerge in so many ways. Remind us today, O God, that we are creatures of earth, able to fulfill our life’s purpose most joyfully when we are aligned with your sacred rhythms and your ever-expanding vision of Shalom. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #7) RESTORE Balance: Consciously re-align our lives with the sacred and natural rhythms of Life expressed through the whole of God’s creation.** In the Interpersonal Dimension, we receive and offer support to one another as we seek to practice healthy rhythms and restore balance in our lives.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, we confess that for many of us, as with so many people of faith who have gone before us, “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak,” when it comes to maintaining healthy rhythms and balance in our lives. And yet you never ask us to try to do this alone. All your creatures, the seasons, the very rhythms of day and night partner with us in maintaining sacred rhythms and balance. Even your Sabbath is to be honored communally, not just individually. Help us to help one another remember this critical practice, so that the wholeness we seek for the world is not compromised by the imbalances we allow in our own lives. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #7) RESTORE Balance: Consciously re-align our lives with the sacred and natural rhythms of Life expressed through the whole of God’s creation.** In our Faith Communities, we incorporate Sabbath practices into the culture of our communities, honoring the limits of both human and earth’s capacity, and our need for restoration.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, as we seek to restore balance and wholeness in our communities of faith, we are often confronted with a communal culture of incessant giving and incessant doing, of celebrating those who seem to have no limits to their capacity and ignoring our dependence on resources that are stretching earth’s capacity beyond its limits. Grant us the courage to name the unsustainable patterns we witness within our communities, and to return to Sabbath practices, honoring the limits of both human and earth’s capacity, and creating a culture in which Shalom — the restoration of balance and wholeness — is both the means and the goal of our faith community’s mission. Amen**

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**Prayer for Practice #7) RESTORE Balance: Consciously re-align our lives with the sacred and natural rhythms of Life expressed through the whole of God’s creation.** In the Public Sphere, we intentionally practice healthy cycles of public engagement, participating in organized actions while also taking time to celebrate, grieve, and restore our energy, in keeping with the Sabbath rhythms of the God of creation.

**Let us Pray.**

**Indwelling God of Love, the suffering in the world and the pressures on our communities can so easily overwhelm us, while the urgent pleas for immediate and incessant public action can so often drown out the still small voice inside begging us to rest, to celebrate, or to grieve. Grant us the wisdom to work together for justice in ways that reflect the sacred and natural rhythms of Life and the vision of Shalom that we seek — the restoration of balance and wholeness for ourselves, all human communities, and the whole community of creation. Amen**

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