

Oh Lord of life, light, and mercy
Hear your mournful people
We are in despair, beset by division and darkness
We, your beloved ones, do not love one another well
We bicker and belittle and marginalize one another for real or perceived differences
We succumb to powerful forces that profit from our division
Sometimes we stoke those forces and elevate them
Evil strikes our hearts and we let it in

We, your beloved ones, do not love others well
We hoard your light behind closed shades rather than shining for all to see
We serve judgement and condemnation instead of kindness and compassion
We stand by while others suffer and look away from their ordeal
Sometimes we are glad when they suffer and hope they learn their lesson
Evil strikes our hearts and we give it a home there

We, your beloved ones, do not love your world well
We seek out those who are like us rather than embracing the tapestry of humanity
We use the resources of this magnificent planet for our comfort and convenience
We live as consumers rather than stewards of the world you created
Sometimes we feel our actions don't really matter
Evil strikes our hearts and seeps out in our thoughts and actions

Oh Lord of life, light, and mercy
Hear your mournful people
You bring new life from ashes and revive the weary
You are faithful, just, and righteous in all times, even when your people stumble
You are slow to anger, quick to forgive, and kind to those who call on You
Hear us, heal us, strengthen us for the day at hand
We pray to the Holy One, the Lord who was, and is, and is to come