

GRAPE

Global Reformed Advocacy
Platforms for Engagement

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL TO LOCAL

GRAPE SUNDAY 2025 PRAYER

Dear Member churches

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for your participation in the inaugural GRAPE Sunday. We have compiled a prayer that can be used during this special service. The prayer takes the form of a responsive litany, that will allow the congregation to partake in the prayer. We hope this will be a useful resource in your service.

With much appreciation

GRAPE Team

L = Liturgist/Leader

C = Congregation

Let us pray;

L: Our Sovereign Lord, the creator of heaven and the earth, to whom all things belong
We acknowledge you as the one who sustains the earth throughout its entirety.

C: Lord, Creator of the universe, hear us as we pray.

L: We come before you, most gracious God of righteousness
To act with grace and justice for those suffering from injustices.

C: Lord, we pray.

L: Our Country is burdened with high levels of unemployment and poverty,
Many of our brothers and sisters, children created in your image, are destitute and marginalised
The economic system of our country devalues people and excludes them from your wealth here on earth. Day after day, inequality rises due to the strong and powerful, who exploit the resources in the face of the weak and the needy. Help us to confront these systems of inequality and oppression.

C: Lord, remember the downtrodden and be gracious unto them.

L: In the face of the economic injustices, we pray that every person created in your image can live a life of dignity and provision to sustain body, mind and soul. We regard the Universal Basic Income as a prerequisite for economic justice and a caring society based on equality and the right to life

C: Lord, support us in this campaign, strengthen us and give empathy and courage to our leaders

L: We pray, oh God, restore the dignity as your children of all those who are suffering. Renew your Covenant with them as a God who provides from His divine provision. Let your justice flow like a river and righteousness like an ever-lasting stream. Remember them in your infinite mercy and plead thou their cause.

C: Lord, be their provider and restore their hope that they may live a dignified life.

L: We bring before you those who regard themselves as agents of change. We pray that you may strengthen them in your wisdom. Give them a greater sense of discernment for the realities around us today. We ask, in particular, that you bless the members of the UBIC Coalition as well as the members of the GRAPE platform. We ask that you continue your work of compassion through them.

C: Lord, we thank you for the men and women who offer themselves as agents to be used by you. Bless them with wisdom, knowledge and power.

L: Lord, we pray that your Holy Spirit might even work in our hearts and minds today, to join in the work of advocacy for justice and equality. Stir in us an uncomfortability for our current reality and enable us to fight for the oppressed. Help us to lead the charge for liberation in our own communities and the country at large.

C: Lord, we avail ourselves to your service of justice and pledge anew our commitment to work towards an equal society for all.

L: Dear brothers and sisters, receive God's blessing;

*May God bless you with discomfort,
at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships
so that you may live
deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for
justice, freedom and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears,
to shed for those who suffer pain,
rejection, hunger, and war,
so that you may reach out your hand
to comfort them and
to turn their pain to joy.*

*And may God bless you
with enough foolishness
to believe that you can
make a difference in the world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done,
to bring justice and kindness
to all our children and the poor.*

(Franciscan Benediction)

All: *Amen*