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CARE TEAM MINISTRY

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PRAYERS

## **Opening Prayer**

Dear Lord, we ask that You bless the members of this Care Team so that we might serve those in our community with compassion, understanding and love. Help us to walk in Your way as You call upon us to do Your loving work. Be with us this evening as we prepare ourselves for our next visits. We ask for Your protection in our going out and our coming in. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Author Unknown



## **Selflessness**

O dearly beloved Word of God, teach me to be generous to serve You as You deserve, to give without counting the cost, to fight without fretting at my wounds, to labor without seeking rest, to spend myself without looking for any reward other than that of knowing that I do Your Holy Will. Amen.

Author Unknown

St. Albert the Great Catholic Care Team

## **St. Teresa's Prayer**

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion looks out on the world, yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.

St. Teresa of Avila

St. Ann Catholic Care Team

## **Sending Forth**

Most gracious and loving Trinity, You have gathered us this day to be re-created in Your image. Help us to see as You see! To speak as You speak! To touch as You touch! As we go forth this afternoon, guide us, we pray. Be with us in our going forth and in our returning, in our sleeping and in our wakefulness, in our tears and in our hopes. Let us go then and do Your bidding. Let us build Your kingdom where You live forever and ever. Amen.

Author Unknown

St. Christopher Catholic Care Team

Dear God, we thank You for our many blessings – our health – our families – our friends – our church. As we gather this afternoon, may we be aware of others' needs and may we continue to learn how best to fit into Your world. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Author Unknown

Covenant Presbyterian Care Team

Almighty Father, You gave Your only Son for our redemption, and confirm His message by the witness of Your Holy Spirit. Inspire us today with His gift of counsel so that we may always know what is best to do, and ever be confirmed in acting rightly. We ask this grace in the Name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Author Unknown

St. Bernard Catholic - Middleton Care Team

## **Love Your Neighbor as Yourself**

"The commandments... are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Romans 13:9

The apostle Paul writes to the church in Rome about love as the fulfillment of God's law. This congregation, situated in a large and diverse city, contains a variety of people of widely varying backgrounds. What could they possibly have in common? Love. First, the love of God in Jesus Christ unites them, and then the love of neighbor sets the standard for their conduct.

What then is the nature of this love? More than one Christian has admitted that he has a hard time loving some of his Christian brothers and sisters, let alone loving his enemies. But what about helping them? For Paul, love is not a feeling. It is concrete action. We need not wait for warm feelings to do good for our neighbor. Instead, Paul says we seek the welfare of neighbors near and far, because this is the way the Christian behaves toward brothers and sisters in the faith and to neighbors around the world.

Christ put such love into action when He freely gave His life on the cross for us and the world. This is the love Paul talks about and encourages us to practice.

Love is an action, not a feeling.

Let us pray, God of love, help us to seek and promote the welfare of neighbors both near and far, through Christ.  
Amen.

*Christ in Our Home*  
Primrose Lutheran Care Team

## **Prayer to Serve God Well**

Father of mercy, forgive my failings, keep me in Your Grace, and lead me in the way of salvation. Give me strength in serving You as a follower of Christ. May the Eucharist bring me Your forgiveness and give me freedom to serve You all my life. May it help me to remain faithful and give me the grace I need in Your service. May it teach me the way to eternal life.

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St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Care Team*

The time has come O Lord – for us to leave Your place;  
guide us and protect us and lead us in Your grace.

Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways, help us share with others the things we've shared today. May the peace of God our Father and the love of Christ, His Son, guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us each one. May the blessing of the Spirit fill us from within; God bless us and return us to this fellowship again. Amen.

Author Unknown  
Covenant Lutheran Care Team



## **A Song of Benediction**

May the Lord, mighty God bless and keep you forever,  
grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in ev'ry endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see His face and His grace forever.  
May the Lord mighty God bless and keep you forever!

Author Unknown  
Mount Olive Lutheran Care Team

O, heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the food and remember the hungry. We thank Thee for health and remember the sick. We thank Thee for friends and we remember the friendless. We thank Thee for freedom and we remember the enslaved. May these remembrances stir us to service that Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

Norma Baker  
Springdale Lutheran Care Team

Thank you, loving God, for hearing my prayers. Bless me and send me forth assured in faith that You are with me as I visit Your sick ones; those who are injured; the frail of body, mind, and spirit; the elderly who bear the burdens of old age. I go in the Spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen and Alleluia.

Author Unknown  
St. Olaf Catholic Care Team

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Care Team

### Opening prayer

During this day, we gather together to celebrate the healing and caring in which we all participate. Our hands represent the care we both give and receive. Particularly in our ministry, we have wonderful opportunities to nurture and support each other in different ways. Each of us has found different paths and challenges during our visits to those in our care. Each of us will experience different opportunities in the year to come. We are included in intimate moments of people's lives. We celebrate the calling we have received and the work that we do. With Your help, Lord, we truly can bring comfort, healing, and care to His people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Adapted from <http://www.2heartsnetwork.org/care.htm>

St. John the Baptist Catholic Care Team

Lord Jesus, bless us tonight as we gather together to share our thoughts and concerns about our Care Team Ministry. We thank You for this opportunity to serve others. Help us not to be discouraged or disillusioned. Help us be patient, understanding and compassionate to the needs of others. Help us to enjoy the moments and memories of the times spent with our Care Partners. Strengthen the commitment we have made to You. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Care Team

St. Ann Catholic Care Team

## Giving A Little

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. Whoever welcomes God’s messenger because he is God’s messenger, will share in his reward. And whoever welcomes a good man because he is good, will share in his reward. You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is My follower, will certainly receive a reward.” Matthew 10: 40 – 42

It sure doesn’t seem that Jesus asks very much – just to give a glass of water to someone who needs it. That is a very little thing. What is so important about that? Because it’s a start.

The hardest thing for us to do is to give anything, so Jesus asks us first to give just a little. That’s why He puts us together in families. There we can do little things for each other and give little things to each other all the time.

What’s more, we learn how to give in, how to accept each other, how to be friends with each other. Then we are able to do the bigger things: welcome other people, including Jesus, into our lives too.

Make us worthy to receive You, taking others in as You do, giving them some of our heart.

Author Unknown  
St. Jerome Catholic Care Team

## A Meditation

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed. Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5: 1-4

Primrose Lutheran Care Team

We come to prayer because God is our father, and God has promised us everlasting love, everlasting kindness and everlasting care... I'm somebody. I'm somebody special. I'm God's child. I can change things, I can make life better for myself, for my family, for my community, for my church, for my world.

I make life better when I care about somebody, when I reach out and touch somebody, when I smile, when I say yes to life and to laughter and to love and to hope and to joy—even in the midst of troubles.

I make life better when I say yes to God's will as it manifests itself in the circumstances of my life. And I want to say yes to God, I want to say yes to life, yes to hope, yes to love, yes to you, yes to eternity. Amen.

Sister Thea

St. Christopher Catholic Care Team

## Litany of Christ the Healer

Lord Jesus, Son of God and our brother, we lift up our  
Care Partners to You this day.

Lord Jesus, You bore our ills and carried our griefs, we lift  
up our Care Partners to You this day.

Lord Jesus, You preached good news and raised up those  
with illness and disease, we lift up our Care Partners to You  
this day.

Lord Jesus, You touched the woman bent double and she  
stood straight; You let Yourself be touched by the  
hemorrhaging woman and she was cured, we lift up our  
Care Partners to You this day.

Lord Jesus, You restored sight to the blind and hope to the  
downhearted, we lift up our Care Partners to You this day.

Lord Jesus, you cured Peter's mother-in-law, Jairus'  
daughter, the only son of the widow of Nain, the  
centurion's servant, we lift up our Care Partners to you this  
day.

Lord Jesus, You cast out demons and relieved the  
tormented and anxious, we lift up our Care Partners to You  
this day.

Lord Jesus, You healed crippled limbs and purified the skin  
of lepers, we lift up our Care Partners to You this day.

Lord Jesus, You laid hands on the sick and anointed them with the oil of gladness, we lift up our Care Partners to You this day.

Lord Jesus, be with our Care Partners this day. Help us to be Your comforting presence, Your healing touch as we minister to them. Amen.

Adapted from *Litany of Christ the Healer, Praying with the Sick* by Sandra DeGidio, OSM, Twenty-third Publications, 1998  
St. Patrick – Mt. Michael Catholic Care Team

Father, You have blessed our faith community by creating our Care Team Ministry. We are like-hearted, listening to Your call. We want to grow in service to Your people, bringing Your love to them. We thank you for the opportunity we have as we are embraced by our Partners and their families. What a gift You have given us – to be swept into the lives of such beautiful people – Godly people – Your people. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Team Members  
Peace Lutheran Care Team



### Little Things

The little things that mean so much... a word... a note... a special touch. Can make the day and warm the heart of one whose life is set apart... But grateful still for special friends whose caring never... never ends!

Anna M. Matthews  
St. Bernard Catholic-Atwood Care Team

## The Call

Persistent God, Your voice beckons like some secret yet to be revealed. I am drawn to Your invitation yet scared by the possibilities it might hold for my life.

You ask to be loved with a whole heart, a whole soul, and a whole mind, and I tremble at the thought of what that might demand of me and of my life.

Lead me, Lord, to a place where I can hear the wisdom of Your words. Speak to me, Lord, so I can understand Your plan for me. Call me, Lord, to a life that serves You. Strengthen me, Lord, so that my “Yes!” is louder than the world’s “NO!” Gift me, Lord, with the faith to answer Your call and the trust to follow in Your footsteps all the days of my life. Amen.

Author Unknown  
St. Patrick’s Catholic Care Team

Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

Matthew 25:34-36  
St. Dennis Catholic Care Team

Never a trial that He is not there.  
Never a burden that He does not bear.  
Never a sorrow that He does not share.  
Moment by moment we're under His care.

D. W. Whittle  
First United Methodist Care Team

Lord, I thank You and praise You for calling me to visit, in Your name, those who suffer from illness, injury or the challenges of aging. I know You do not send me forth alone, but that You will walk with me in Spirit as I touch the lives of those experiencing pain or loss, anxiety or anger, frustration or despair.

Author Unknown  
St. Olaf Catholic Care Team

### Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, send Your Holy Spirit upon us this Lent that we might faithfully keep watch with You. As we pray to our Father in a spirit of repentance and thanksgiving, help us to turn to our brothers and sisters in love and service. May this sacred season be a time of mercy, a time for us to forgive others as we have been forgiven by You. Bring all of us who worship You as our Redeemer closer together as we prepare to celebrate Your dying and rising.  
Amen.

Author Unknown  
St. Christopher Care Team

Dear Heavenly Father, give us a heart full of love,  
tenderness and gentleness that come only from above.

Help us to be kind and give us a heart that's compassionate  
watching what we say that our words might not be  
passionate.

Help us listen with our heart that we might feel another's  
pain; give us words that comfort and bless and bring glory  
to Your Name.

Fill us with courage and strength, to do our duties with  
diligence, to care for our loved ones with longsuffering and  
patience.

Give us peace and contentment in a world full of chaos that  
we might serve you better as long as we shall last.

Help us to be blind and deaf to the things that upset us; help  
us to focus instead on Your world full of beauty.

Help us to see that caregiving is not a heavy cross to bear  
but a precious opportunity to develop Christ's image so fair.

Thank you, God, for Your patience and Your love that  
sustains; we'll praise You forever and ever in the name of  
Jesus. Amen.

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Covenant Lutheran Care Team

### Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, during this time of so many world-wide disasters and the hardships that follow, we pray for the many people that we cannot reach; please watch over them, keeping them safe and full of hope.

With Your help, please let this ministry, and our efforts, make a difference in the lives of those who are close enough for us to reach in their times of need, whatever those needs might be.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your guidance to find the right words and actions to accomplish this. Amen.

Bruce Caucutt  
St Bernard Catholic- Middleton Care Team

Dear God, as we gather together today, we ask for You to be with us...to open our hearts to each other... to listen to us and guide us as we try to do Your work here on earth. May You, Lord, be with those who are shut-in and feel alone. Keep us mindful of the needs of others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jane Arbogast  
Covenant Presbyterian Care Team



## Heart Prayer

God, please give me a heart that can hold all of the good things in life; a heart with compassion and kindness, with gentleness and patience, and a heart that is open to spontaneity and joy.

Please form in me a heart that listens to all of Your messages of love; one that trusts, always looking for the goodness hidden in others; one that will easily share the gifts You have given, and one that can hope beyond difficulties.

Grant me a peaceful heart that will hold on to the real values in life so that I can respond with assurance to what is important; give me a heart that is grounded in love rather than fear; one that is open to the needs of others and will reach out with sincerity.

Please God, give me a heart filled with Your Spirit.

Author Unknown  
St. Ann Catholic Care Team

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied task in the world and in your church, so you have called those gathered here to the ministry of Care. Grant them joy in their service and trust that you are with them always. May their work bear the fruits of blessing, respect, and love, to the glory of Your Son. Amen.

Hymnal  
Primrose Lutheran Care Team

Prayer for the Military Services  
and for Our Partners Who Served

Almighty God and Father, look with love upon our men and women in uniform and protect them in their time of need. Give them health and stability and allow them to return to their loved ones whole and unshaken. Be with their families and sustain them in these uncertain times.

Grant strength and peace of mind to the Veterans who have given their best for the country they love. Support them in infirmity and in the fragility of old age. Teach us to remember their sacrifices and to express our gratitude.

Manifest Your tender care to those in the Military Academies who prepare for further service and to those who serve our Nation far from home. Teach us to remember the sacrifices of those whose efforts contribute to ensuring our way of life.

Hear us as we present our prayers to You through Christ our Lord.

Author Unknown  
St. Dennis Catholic Care Team

To see our Christ in those we serve; to listen to our clients with compassion and patience; to spread Thy peace along the way; and to serve with selfless love, we ask Thee Lord.

Mary Ann Ihlenfeld  
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Care Team

Wherever You Are... God Is

Blessed are my eyes, for they see the beauty of God.  
Blessed are my ears, for they hear the harmony of God.  
Blessed are my hands, for they perform the works of God.  
Blessed are my feet, for they walk the path of God.  
Blessed is my heart, for it beats with the love of God.  
Blessed are my lungs, for they breathe the breath of God.  
Blessed is my body, for it is alive with the life of God.  
Blessed is my mind, for it is filled with the intelligence of God.  
Blessed is my spirit, for it is quickened with the power of God.  
Blessed am I, for I am healed and whole through God.  
Amen.

Author Unknown  
Peace Lutheran Care Team

Lord Jesus, bless us today as we gather together to share our thoughts and concerns about our Care Partners. We thank You for this opportunity to serve others. Help us not to be discouraged or disillusioned. Help us to be patient and understanding to the needs of others. Help us enjoy the moments and the memories of the times spent with our Care Partners. Strengthen the commitment we have made to You. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Author Unknown  
St. Jerome Catholic Care Team

Father in Heaven, bless us as we gather for this meeting.  
Guide our minds and hearts so that we will work for the  
good of our community, and help all Your people. Teach  
us to be generous in our outlook, courageous in the face of  
difficulty, and wise in our decisions. Father, we praise You  
for You are God for ever and ever. Amen.

Betty Azim  
St. Christopher Catholic Care Team

### The Art of Giving

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart: love,  
kindness, joy, tolerance, forgiveness.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the mind: ideas,  
dreams, purposes, ideals, principles, plans, inventions,  
projects, poetry.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the spirit:  
prayers, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith.

We give of ourselves when we give the gift of words:  
encouragement, inspiration, guidance.

Emerson said it well: "Rings and jewels are not gifts, but  
apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of  
thysself."

Wilfred A. Peterson  
Evangelical Lutheran Care Team



### For Those Whose Work is Invisible

For those who paint the undersides of boats, makers of ornamental drains on roofs too high to be seen; for cobblers who labor over inner soles; for seamstresses who stitch the wrong sides of linings; for scholars whose research leads to no obvious discovery.

For dentists who polish each gold surface of the fillings of upper molars; for sewer engineers and those who repair water mains; for electricians; for artists who suppress what does injustice to their visions; for surgeons whose sutures are things of beauty.

For all those whose work is for Your eye only, who labor for Your entertainment or their own, who sleep in peace or do not sleep in peace, knowing their efforts are unknown.

Protect them from downheartedness. Grant them perseverance, for the sake of Your love, which is humble, invisible, and heedless of reward.

Mary Gordon  
Evangelical Lutheran Care Team

Dear Lord, we thank You for being with us this day. Sharing our care for those in need uplifts us and helps us feel useful. May we be able to extend our concern in our daily living. We ask that You continue to be with us as we go from this gathering. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

Jane Arbogast  
Covenant Presbyterian Care Team

May today there be peace within you. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God. Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, and to bask in the sun. It is there for each and every one of you. God bless you.

Cheryl McNamee  
St. Albert the Great Catholic Care Team

### Opening Prayer

Lord God, because You have promised us that if we ask we shall receive, we pray that You bless our efforts in the Mount Olive Care Ministry. We thank You for giving us this opportunity. Help us to give comfort and assistance according to Your will. Strengthen our faith that we, in turn, can show strength to one another. Provide us with an extra measure of patience and love for our sisters and brothers. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Ruth Lutze  
Mount Olive Lutheran Care Team

Commit your way unto the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Psalm 37: 5  
Springdale Lutheran Care Team

### Give Me

God, give me eyes that I might see the work that can be done by me; God, give me ears that I might hear the cry of those who need me near. God, give me lips that I might speak comfort and peace to all who seek; God, give me a mind that I might know how to help those who need me so.

God, give me hands that I might do some large or simple task for You; God, give me a prayer that I might pray Thy help and guidance every day. And this one thing, all else above; God, give me a heart that I may love.

Author Unknown

St. Patrick Catholic Care Team

### Prayer for Love Among God's People

Loving Father, our Creator, teach us to love our brothers and sisters of every nation and race. Give us the grace to obey the words of Jesus, who said, "Love one another as I have loved you." Give us, Father, the grace to understand the sufferings of others as we understand our own. Bestow on us the gift of true brotherhood. Help us, Father, to work together to make the world a place where you will be adored by all Your people in peace and joy. Amen.

*Catholic Prayer Book Our Sunday Visitor, 1991*

St. Patrick – St. Michael Catholic Care Team

### Closing prayer

Almighty Father, we commend to Thy loving care all who are sick in body and mind, especially those ministered to by our Care Team. Grant them patience in their suffering; cheer and uphold them with the knowledge of Thy love; and if it be Thy will, restore them to health and strength.

Remember, O Lord, the elderly and infirm, those who feel their life's work is done and can no longer lend a helping hand where once they did; all who are passing through the valley of the shadows.

Regard with Thy tender compassion those who are anxious. Bear their sorrows and their cares; give them comfort and peace in Thee; and grant them evermore sure trust and confidence in Thy fatherly care. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Adapted from <http://www.stpeteroshawa.com/prayers>

St. John the Baptist Catholic Care Team

### A Morning Prayer

Lord, the more I come to know you, the more I desire to know you. The more I know you the greater will be my love for you. Grant that I might grow in a deeper awareness of your presence within me. Deepen my trust in your goodness and strengthen me to bear whatever difficulties that might come my way. Amen.

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection

St. Jerome Catholic Care Team

When I meditated on the word *Guidance*, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music.

One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another.

It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word *Guidance*. When I saw "G" I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God," "u" and "i" dance." God, you and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

May you abide in God as God abides in you.

Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

Author Unknown  
Primrose Lutheran Care Team

## Compassion

I believe that Jesus interprets God's way for us as an inter-dependent path. We come to know God through our mutual investment in the lives of one another (all living organisms).

These symbiotic relationships are defined as “the intimate living together of dissimilar people in mutually agreeable relationships.” And so compassion is one key element in these relationships.

Compassion is defined as a “deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.”

In response to suffering we do for others and others do for us. We are soothed and enriched by receiving as well as by giving. And thus we experience the grace of God.

First Church is rich in opportunities to give and receive compassion.

Paul White  
First United Methodist Care Team

Father, all-wise and knowing, Your Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God, and makes known to us the mind of our Lord, Your Son. Impart to us now His gift of knowledge so that we may be enabled to love and serve you always in all those we encounter in life. In Christ's name we beg this gift of His Spirit. Amen.

Author Unknown  
St. Bernard Catholic-Middleton Care Team

For you were called to freedom, brothers, But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled with one statement. Namely love your neighbor as yourself.

I say, then, live by the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

The one who sows for the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, especially those who belong to our family of the faith.

Galatians 5: 13-14, 16, 22-23, 6: 8-10

Fill us with the fruits of your Spirit, Lord. Fill me with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control so that I may serve those in our faith family as if our hands and hearts were your hands and hearts. Fill me with the fruits of your Spirit, Lord.

Author Unknown

St. John the Baptist Catholic Care Team

You are my rock and my fortress; for Your Name's sake lead and guide me.

Psalms 31:4

St. Bernard Catholic-Atwood Care Team



Dear Jesus, we come together tonight to support our Partners and future Partners whose age and health limit their access to the spiritual connections to our church. We remember their contributions with Love and want to help them stay connected now.

Thank you for the example You set for us in serving and accepting all people into God's family, especially those who have been separated from His Love.

Thank you for the opportunity to be friends with our Partners and to each other as we strive to bring Your Love into their suffering.

Thank you for the inspiration and joy Your Light brings into our own lives as we know and serve our Partners.

May tonight's meeting strengthen our church family, help our Partners in some new way and bring us all closer together in the Oneness of God's Love. Amen.

Mary Jo Thieleke  
First United Methodist Care Team

Everything Jesus touched, He changed.

He touched the lame, and they could walk.

He touched the blind, and they could see.

He touched the lepers, and they were made whole.

“Jesus entered the house of Peter, and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she rose and waited on him.” Matthew 8: 14-15

He touched the greedy, selfish Zaccheus, and that little man became benevolent and selfless.

“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.” Mark 1: 40-42

He touched the life of a woman in adultery. Freed of her guilt, she started on a new road.

“Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.” Mark 6: 4-5

He touched the cross- man’s invention of inhuman punishment and torturous death. Now it is the symbol of faith and salvation.

“Wherever he went, whether into villages, towns, or farms, people would place their sick in the marketplaces and beg him to let them touch even the tassel of his garment, and everyone who touched it was healed.” Mark 6: 56

He removed the fear of death. He arose triumphantly from the tomb.

“And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.” Luke 6: 17-19

Everything Jesus touched, He changed.

*Day Brighteners* by H.S. Vigeveno  
Mount Olive Lutheran Care Team

### Night Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You have given Your followers an example of gentleness and humility, a task that is easy, a burden that is light. Accept the prayers and work of this day, and give us the rest that will strengthen us to render more faithful service to you who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Author Unknown  
St. Bernard Catholic-Atwood Care Team

### Blessing of Remembrance for Betty

(Each time a Care Team Partner dies, we remember them at our next meeting. This remembrance honors Betty's Irish spirit.)

#### Words of Welcome

Oh, Danny Boy, if you should come and I am dead as dead I well may be, you'll come and find the place where I am lying, and kneel and say a prayer for me. And I shall hear, though soft you tread above me.

Adapted from "*Derry Air*" by Fred Weatherly

#### Prayer

Oh, Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, You have given us the circle of life on earth, as well as everlasting life with You. Recognizing the mystery of life after death, we give You thanks and trust that somehow Betty hears us treading softly as we pray. We thank you for our relationships with her, for the gifts she shared with the world, and for the peace that Betty has found with You. Amen.

#### Scripture Text

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

#### Reflection and Sharing

## Balloons at My Funeral

Helium-filled so they can fly proud and high, with varied colors against a brilliant blue sky. Colors to match every emotion I had...thoughtful, loving, even sad. One lone *white* for the purity of birth. One *golden* for my last day on earth. Many more...*red, black, purple, blue and green*... For all the hope, pain, and joy that I have seen. When the words are spoken: “Ashes to ashes and dust to dust,” release my balloons to be caught in a heavenward gust. As they soar upward and soon out of sight, you’ll know I’ll be watching with joyous delight. Balloons at my funeral...oh please don’t forget. For the day I reached Heaven, was my greatest day yet!

Author Unknown

This poem was read at the cemetery when people released balloons. At our Care Team meeting, we read this poem and Care Team Ministers shared what they remembered best about Betty.

## CLOSING PRAYER

The seed is with Christ and the harvest is with Christ. May we be gathered into God’s granary.

The sea is with Christ and the fish are with Christ. May we be swept into God’s nets.

From growth to maturity, and from maturity to death, may You, O Christ, close your arms tightly around us!

From death to finish—oh, it is not finish, but a new growth! May we be found dwelling in the paradise of the graced! Amen.

Traditional Gaelic Prayer  
Susan Payne, Parish Nurse  
People’s United Methodist Care Team

### A Thanksgiving Prayer

Oh, God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry; When I have work, help me to remember the jobless; When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless; When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer; And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion. Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.

“For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed Me...” Matthew 25:35

Samuel F. Pugh

Salesian Missions

[www.salesianmissions.org](http://www.salesianmissions.org)

St. Dennis Catholic Care Team

St. Christopher Catholic Care Team



### In Remembrance

God our Father, Your power brings us to birth, Your providence guides our lives, and by Your command we return to dust. Lord those who die still live in Your presence, their lives change, but do not end. We pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and for all the dead known to You alone. In company with Christ who dies and now lives, may they rejoice in Your kingdom where all our tears are wiped away. Unite us together again in one family to sing your praises forever and ever. Amen.

Author Unknown

Covenant Lutheran Care Team

## Out in the Fields of God

The little cares that fretted me I lost them yesterday, among  
the fields above the sea, among the winds at play, among the  
lowing of the herds, the rustling of the trees, among the  
singing of the birds, the humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what might pass, I cast them all away,  
among the clover-scented grass, among the new-mown hay,  
among the hushing of the corn, where drowsy poppies nod,  
where ill thoughts die and good are born— Out in the fields  
of God.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
People's United Methodist Care Team

*God works in us, with us, and through us...*

Today, Lord, my life will be touching other lives and my  
prayer is that no one I meet will be damaged by the  
meeting. That, no one because of me, will have more  
despair and less hope. No one, because of me, will have  
more sadness and less joy. No one, because of me, will  
have more sickness and less health. No one, because of me,  
will have more doubt and less faith. No one, because of  
me, will feel more of life's chill and less of life's warmth.  
Teach me, dear Lord, to be open to Your goodwill and  
kindness, help me to speak with clarity and grace about the  
faith that is in me. Amen.

Author Unknown  
St. Jerome Catholic Care Team

### A Caregivers Prayer

Lord, bless me this morning and each one I rise. With a wealth of strength; please bring hope to my eyes. Be sure I'm well grounded for those in my care, even if the challenge becomes too much to bear. Should this day bring hardship, please help me to find a beautiful memory for some peace of mind. Please shower my life with compassion and love, as I take my cues from Your guidance above.

Lord, bless me this morning as I make my way. Please give me laughter to warm someone's day. Be sure I am steady, be sure I am wise. Be sure I am ready, should struggles arise. If I shed a tear, Lord, I pray you will see I'm making the most of chores asked of me. As I strive to put others' need 'fore my own, always stand beside me so I'm not alone.

Lord, bless me this morning and each one I live. So, I'll remain focused on the care I give. Be sure I'm afforded the best tools allowed to serve others' needs and, in turn, make them proud. Please look down upon me and offer a smile so, I'll always know that my job is worthwhile. Let me treat each patient and illness the same as worthy as the prayer, I've asked in your name.

Jill Esinaugle  
St. Christopher Catholic Care Team

Prayer to the Holy Spirit – Source of Unity  
Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your people!  
Help us, heal us, hold us in love.  
Shake us, shape us, show us Your truth.  
Form us, mend us, send us Your power.  
Touch us, teach us, turn us to You.  
Unite us, ignite us, delight us with joy.  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your people, and  
renew the face of the earth.

Author Unknown  
St. Ann Catholic Care Team

### Blessing Prayer of Our Hands

Dear Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for these beautiful hands of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Thank you for his/her faithful serving heart. Bless  
\_\_\_\_\_, Your faithful servant, as he/she goes forward  
into the world to serve those who need serving. Provide a  
gentle, loving kindness to these hands and this heart as they  
are called to do Your work. In Jesus name, Amen

(The team gathers in a circle. The leader, with oil, makes  
the sign of the cross on each palm of the hands before  
offering the blessing while holding his/her hands. Then  
each member turns to the member to his/her right and  
makes the sign of the cross on that person's palm until the  
last one has blessed the leader's hand.)

Together we close with the Lord's Prayer.

Karen Marshall - Parish Nurse  
Peace Lutheran Care Team

Oh God, help us view Respite Care Team Ministry as a spiritual calling in life. Keep us mindful of the sacred nature of what we do. Open our eyes to new opportunities. Grant us courage and vision to do Your ministry. Help us remember that as we love and honor our Team members and our Care Partners, we love and honor You. Fill our hearts with your loving spirit so that we do not lose heart. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen

Ruth Duxbury  
Mount Olive Lutheran Care Team



### STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Almighty and ever-faithful Lord, gratefully acknowledging Your mercy and humbly admitting our need, we pledge our trust in You and each other.

Filled with desire, we respond to your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ. We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of Your gifts. As stewards, we receive Your gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible manner, share them in practice and love with others, and return them with increase to You.

We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavor. Almighty and ever-faithful God, it is our fervent hope and prayer that You who have begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Author Unknown  
St. Patrick – St. Michael Catholic Care Team

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing season bring the best to you and yours!

Author Unknown

St. Jerome Catholic Care Team

I pray that out of God's glorious riches he may strengthen \_\_\_\_\_ with power through his Spirit in \_\_\_\_\_'s being, so that Christ may dwell in \_\_\_\_\_'s heart through faith. And I pray that \_\_\_\_\_, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that \_\_\_\_\_ may be filled to the measure of the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all \_\_\_\_\_ can imagine, according to his power that is at work within \_\_\_\_\_, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3: 16-20

Melba Rick

Springdale Lutheran Care Team

Knowing my presence is only a shadow of Your loving presence with those I visit, I offer my prayers to You, I pray for respect and reverence for the life of each individual I visit. For a listening heart and ears that hear the messages that transcend mere words. For Your guidance that will provide me with wisdom, right judgment and understanding. For abundance of peace, hope and joy to spread among Your people, Lord. For faith in Your promise to be with me always. For Your blessings of strength and patience on all caregivers who tend to the needs of the sick and suffering.

Author Unknown  
St. Olaf Catholic Care Team

### Remembering Our Partner

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou annointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23  
Evangelical Lutheran Care Team

Loving and gracious Lord, as we serve within the congregation, help us to remember that in You, we live and move and have our being.

Grounded in You and in Your love, may we be strengthened by Your graces for our ministries so that we might be signs of Your love.

Called and gifted by Your spirit, may we seek always to be instruments working to accomplish Your will, not ours, in the world.

Marked as Your own, may we serve as leaven for righteousness, for justice, for peace, Your peace.

We ask this through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Author Unknown  
St. Patrick Catholic Care Team

## A Prayer

...This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promises. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

Archbishop Oscar A. Romero  
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Care Team

God, please give me a heart that can hold all of the good things in life; a heart with compassion and kindness, with gentleness and patience, and a heart that is open to spontaneity and joy.

Please form in me a heart that listens to all of Your messages of love; one that trusts, always looking for the goodness hidden in others; one that will easily share the gifts You have given, and one that can hope beyond difficulties.

Grant me a peaceful heart that will hold on to the real values in life so that I can respond with assurance to what is important; give me a heart that is grounded in love rather than fear; one that is open to the needs of others and will reach out with sincerity.

Please God, give me a heart filled with Your Spirit.

Author Unknown

### Beatitudes of Aging

Blessed are those who understand my faltering step and weakened hand.

Blessed are those who know that my ears today must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are those with a friendly smile who just stop by to visit a while.

Blessed are those who never say, "You have already told that story twice today."

Blessed are those who make it known that I am loved, respected, and not alone.

Blessed are those who through love and care ease the days of my journey home in so many ways.

Author Unknown

*Zondervan's Senior's Devotional Bible*

People's United Methodist Care Team



Reflection Prayer from St. Catherine of Sienna

God gave us eyes to look at the sky and everything else and the beauty of creation. Creator God, may we view the world with Your vision.

God gave us ears to listen to God's word and to pray attention to the needs of our neighbors. Loving God, may we be open to messages You send our way.

God gave us a tongue to proclaim God's word, to confess our sins, and to work for the salvation of others. Merciful God, may we speak the truth, kindness and hope You promise.

God gave us hands to serve our neighbors when we see them sick, and to help them with alms in their need. Gracious God, may we reach out with gentleness and compassion.

God gave us feet to carry God to places that are holy and useful to us and our neighbors. Living God, may we not be afraid to go where You send us.

Reflections of Saint Catherine of Sienna  
St. Christopher Catholic Care Team

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

Blessed Mother Teresa  
St. Albert the Great Catholic Care Team



OTHER THOUGHTS  
AND BLESSINGS

## The Caregiver

When his steps falter, she supports him...

When he is in pain, she comforts him...

When he cries out, she calms him...

When she loses her words, he supplies them...

When hands cannot work buttons, he dresses her...

When she cannot feed herself, he feeds her...

Frightened in the night, she holds him...

When he needs to pray, she prays with him...

When he needs comfort, she nurtures him...

Caregivers are men and women who lovingly give their full presence to their loved one. They did not willingly choose this role, but could not imagine doing it any other way. The one they love is dying, and with love in their heart, they wipe away their tears, roll up their sleeves, and give their all. They are so courageous and strong, so untiring and selfless.

God, we ask You today to bless the caregivers. We ask You to empower us to respect their wishes, and to respect the illness of their loved one. Please work through us to help them, with love in our hearts, to bring peace and comfort with our presence.

Lord, we ask that you help us serve in our respite ministry to bring physical and spiritual rest to the caregivers we serve that they may be renewed in their efforts to carry on. May we share Your love and strength in our ministry to help them in whatever way we can, and this we pray in Your Name, Amen.

Author Unknown

Lord, grant that I may see some special joy, some goodness  
in each person I meet today. And then may I honor each  
and every one with love and simple courtesy.

Author Unknown



Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred.... let me sow love.  
Where there is injury.... pardon.  
Where this is discord.... unity.  
Where there is doubt.... faith.  
Where there is error... truth.  
Where there is despair.... hope.  
Where there is sadness.... joy.  
Where there is darkness.... light.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled.... as to console.  
To be understood.... as to understand.  
To be loved.... as to love.

For it is in giving.... that we receive.  
It is in pardoning.... that we are pardoned.  
It is in dying.... that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis

A Thought...  
Go as far as you can see – then when you get there – you'll  
be able to see further.

Author Unknown

## A Blessing as You Provide Care

May the wellspring of compassion be opened to you as you reach out in care. May soothing words find a home in you. May tenderness bless you as you reach out to comfort mind, body and spirit. In the midst of fear and frustration may courage be given you. When difficult decisions confront you, may wisdom inspire you. May patience keep vigil with you and peace of mind calm you. May your heart find a song to sing even when you are weary. May abundant love lift you and gratitude bless you as you live the mission of care entrusted to you. Amen.

A blessing for those who care for others written by Pat Bergen, CSJ.

Permission to print courtesy of [www.ministryofhearts.org](http://www.ministryofhearts.org)

where the blessing is available as cards, framed prints and prayer cards.

If you treasure the beauty that shows all around you and try to add some of your own, enjoy the companionship others can give you, yet value your moments alone...

If you honor opinions that differ from yours, yet stand up for what you believe, admire the accomplishments others have made, and take pride in what you can achieve...

If you love those around you and love yourself, too, if your spirit is eager and free...

Then you know what it means to live life to its fullest and be the best “you” you can be.

Amanda Bradley

### Advent Prayer

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to Your promises and ever close to Your Church; the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which His presence will bestow, for He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Author Unknown

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Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve You. Let Your Spirit rule Your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of Your kingdom. Amen.

Author Unknown

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow or sun without rain. But God did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears and a light for the way. And for all who believe in His kingdom of love, He answers their faith with peace from above.

Author Unknown

Have no fear for what tomorrow may bring. The same loving God who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. God will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

St. Francis de Sales

A happy heart makes the face cheerful. Proverbs 15:13 NIV

Be cheerful. Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

Author Unknown

### A Blessing for the New Year

Lord – We pray that You would give us joy to fill our days, peace to fill our hearts, and love to fill our lives. Thank You for the plans You have for us in this new year. We wait in anticipation to see all You will do! “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

heart to heart with holley

When I first open my eyes upon the morning meadows and look upon the beautiful world, I thank God I'm alive.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Loving and Gracious Lord, as we serve within the parish,  
help us to remember that in You, we live and move and  
have our being.

Grounded in You and in Your love, may we be  
strengthened by Your Graces for our ministries so that we  
might be signs of Your Love.

Called and gifted by Your Spirit, may we seek always to be  
instruments working to accomplish Your Will, not ours, in  
the world.

Marked as Your own, may we serve as leaven for  
righteousness, for justice, for peace, Your peace.

We ask this through Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Author Unknown



### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle  
in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and  
they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the  
earth. O God, who instructs the hearts of the faithful by the  
light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Holy Spirit a  
love and relish of what is right and just and a constant  
enjoyment of His comforts, through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

Author Unknown

Together let us pray, Lord Jesus Christ, You have given Your followers an example of gentleness and humility, a task that is easy, a burden that is light. Accept the prayers and work of this day, and give us the rest that will strengthen us to render more faithful service to You, who live and reign for ever and ever.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle. Into Your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit. You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth. We commend our spirits. With thankful hearts, we say, Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Psalm 103

Author Unknown

May Your reign come, for Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Adapted by the Center of Concern, 1225 Otis Street NE,  
Washington, DC 20017

Website: [www.coc.org](http://www.coc.org) Phone: 202-635-2757

Fax: 202-832-9494

Dear Jesus, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with Your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of Yours.

Shine through us and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel Your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus.

Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as You shine so to shine as to be light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from You. None of it will be ours. It will be You shining on others through us. Let us thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on those around us.

Let us preach You without preaching, not by words, but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You. Amen.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

### God of Love

I open myself to your presence. May I be aware of your powerful goodness which is freely given to me at moment of day. May all that I am and all that I do bless others today with kindness and compassion.

Author Unknown

May God guide you so that whatever will happen to you in your life, will work together for good.

Blessing – Opening Mass of the 128<sup>th</sup> Supreme Meeting  
of the Knights of Columbus – 2010



### Advent Prayer

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace; peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I see His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail.  
Amen.

Author Unknown

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It is a blessing to others when God sends you to them as a voice of encouragement.

When they fear the future, you can bring a word of hope.

When they question the past, you can bring an assuring answer.

When they wonder how they can face the day, you can speak a word of faith,

God will use you to help others to press on, to persevere, to remain faithful.

He will send you as a friend with words spoken from the heart, as an ambassador with a message from the King, and as a fellow pilgrim in whose eyes shine the light of the celestial city.

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Visit Roy's blog: Meet Me in the Meadow at  
<http://roy.dayspring.com>

## The Lord's Prayer: An Adaptation

Our God, who is in heaven and in all of us here on earth;  
the hungry, the oppressed, the excluded, Holy is Your  
name.

May Your reign come

May Your reign come and Your will be done: in choice to  
struggle with the complexities of this world and to confront  
greed and the desire for power in ourselves, in our nation  
and in the global community.

May Your reign come.

Give us this day our daily bread; bread that we are called to  
share, bread that You have given us abundantly and that we  
must distribute fairly, ensuring security for all.

May Your reign come.

Forgive us our trespasses; times we have turned away from  
the struggles of other people and countries, times we have  
thought only of our own security.

May Your reign come.

Lead us not into temptation; the temptation to close our  
minds, ears, and eyes to the unfair global systems that create  
larger and larger gaps between the rich and the poor; the  
temptation to think it is too difficult to bring about more  
just alternatives.

May Your reign come.

Deliver us from evil; the evil of a world where violence happens in your name, where wealth for a few is more important than economic rights for all, where gates and barriers between people are so hard to bring down.

May Your reign come.

Author Unknown

### A Simple Prayer

Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred.... let me sow love.  
Where there is injury.... pardon.  
Where this is discord.... unity.  
Where there is doubt.... faith.  
Where there is error... truth.  
Where there is despair.... hope.  
Where there is sadness.... joy.  
Where there is darkness.... light.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled.... as to console.  
To be understood.... as to understand.  
To be loved.... as to love.

For it is in giving.... that we receive.  
It is in pardoning.... that we are pardoned.  
It is in dying.... that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis

A Team Leader's Christmas Message to the Team  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39

“You cannot love others unless you have a love for yourself that is rooted in God's love for you. A proper, healthy love for one's self leads a person to be generous and giving toward others. The person who walks wisely knows that God has loved him even though he did nothing to deserve that love, and therefore, he is much more likely to reach out with love to others even though they may have done nothing to deserve his love.”

Charles F. Stanley  
*Walking Wisely: Real Guidance for Life's Journey*

I thought of all of you when I read this, and the magnitude of your love. You are incredible, beautiful people, living the truth of what God has called you to do. I am truly, truly thankful.

Your ministry is needed. Your ministry is beautiful and appreciated. Thank you for being brave enough to say “yes” to this ministry.

May you be filled with Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas as you celebrate with those you love.

Karen Marshall, Parish Nurse  
Peace Lutheran Care Team

O God, give me strength to live another day; Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties; Let me not lose faith in my fellow men; Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness; Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them; Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me to take away the joy of conscious integrity; Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things; Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth; Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness; and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls; in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Author Unknown



Dear God, I have only a small heart in which to carry my burdens. But I will bring it to You every day in prayer. Please use my tears and laughter, my love and compassion, to help someone else through this day. Amen

Barbara Johnson  
*Boomerang Joy*

Almighty God and Father, how wonderful that You created us so differently yet each precious in Your sight. Each one of us is the apple of Your eye. Help me be aware that the people You've put into my life are treasures. Amen.

Barbara Johnson  
*Boomerang Joy*

Dear Lord, You have sprinkled splashes of joy throughout my moments and my days. When I look back, I see your patterns of color and meaning, shimmering just like a rainbow. You are beautiful, God, and You make my life beautiful. Amen

Barbara Johnson

*Boomerang Joy*

My Lord and Father, You are the God of all comfort, the God of all laughter, the God of all good humor that turns my world into a place where I can thrive, even when things are not OK. Thanks for being with me through it all and helping me rise above it all. Amen.

Barbara Johnson

*Boomerang Joy*

Dear Lord, sometimes it's not much fun here on earth. But I am committed to joy, full and everlasting joy. Show me how to find it or create it. Show me how to fill the lives of others with the happiness that comes from knowing You. I love you Lord! Amen.

Barbara Johnson

*Boomerang Joy*

Dear Father, I love the way You surprise me with joy. Life is never a tedious treadmill to the one who knows Your. Keep me loving people and doing good. I intend to give a full measure to the world as long as I live in it. I need Your joy! Amen.

Barbara Johnson  
*Boomerang Joy*

A Thought...

If you

think back,

you will see that

your whole life

is a story of

God's love

coming upon you

in successive

stages.

Pope John Paul II



