

## **Prayer of Reconciliation**

God, you lovingly created the world and put all things into relationship with each other. You desire a rhythm of harmony and peace to radiate within your creation and charged us humans created in your image to care for it. We give you thanks and praise your name.

Yet there is hatred, violence, and brokenness throughout the earth. The earth has been violated and many people are suffering. We admit that we like to separate ourselves from any guilt. We quickly excuse ourselves from any responsibility. In spite of our actions, you continue to reach out to us and to invite us to your table. Through Jesus Christ you are giving the invitation to be reconciled to you.

Help us to admit our part in the brokenness of the world.

Where you offer love, we confess that we have learned the subtleties of hatred disguised as self-righteousness and indifference. Too often in your name, we, your people, have sanctioned hatred.

Help us to offer love to others.

Where you give to all people, we confess that we have taken under the disguise of being justified and deserving. We are unable to see the price that others pay and claim innocence and helplessness to bring justice to others.

Help us to give generously as you have given to us.

Where you have created many races of people, all in your image, we confess that we have destroyed because of our silence about the racism around us and our denial that there is racism within us.

Help us to confront racism and create rather than destroy.

Where you include, we confess that we exclude. Where you open your heart to all who come to you, we set conditions and obstacles for others to approach you. We confess that we are a part of a church that decides who is in and who is out. We act as the gatekeeper of your temple.

Help us to be open and inviting to others.

Where you forgive, we confess that we are judgmental. We are grateful that you do not deal with us harshly, but in turn we confess that we deal harshly with those who have wronged us. Forgive us when we return evil for evil.

Help us to forgive those who have hurt us and to accept your forgiveness of us for what we have done.

Oh, God, before we come to your table which you have so lovingly prepared for us, we confess and ask forgiveness. Reconcile us to you. Send down your healing spirit over us and create a new heart and mind within us. Clear our eyes so that we may see others as you see them—people made in your image. Fill us with your love so that we may love as you do. Help us to share our time and resources to mend the brokenness and ease the pain around us. May we care for the earth as you have cared for us. May we invite and make room at the table for all people just as you have done for us.

Oh, God, help us to know what it means for us to be made in your image and to live with integrity of your image in all we do and say so that justice may ring out and peace fill the earth. In Jesus Christ, our Savior's name. AMEN

Nancy Kauffmann, copyright 2000

## Unity Prayer

Gracious and bounteous God—the giver of every good and perfect gift:

We acknowledge your presence with us and we invite you to reign over our lives.

We confess that while we are able to recite the scriptures that say,

“How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity,”

and we are able to teach the words of Jesus,

“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me,”

we are in need of a deeper experience in oneness.

As we share the bounties of your gracious hand,

for which we give thanks, may we feed upon your Living Word

and be drawn into a new and greater unity.

In Jesus’ name. AMEN

Doug Zehr, copyright 2000

## Pastoral Prayer *Based on Acts 10*

Thank you, God

That you play no favorites,

But in every nation and every time –

In our lives and in all the lives in this community around us –

you accept all people who honor you.

Thank you, God

for anointing Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and with power,

and for working through him to do good to all

and to heal those weighed down by evil.

Thank you, God

for calling us to be your witnesses.

May we see and taste and know

Jesus’ resurrection power,

His care for the world,

and his wisdom as Judge of the living and the dead.

Call us toward the great banquet of unity

you are preparing in the world

as all who believe in Jesus

are forgiven and come into the peace—

peace with one another

and peace with God.

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## **Intercessory Prayer**

We come in thanks to you, O God,  
carrying the prayers of our hearts this day,  
and entrusting our needs to your care:

We pray for those who are ill or who are grieving.  
We think especially of...

Jesus, you are our healer, and in you we find comfort and rest.  
Receive the prayers of our hearts for those who are ill or who are grieving.

### **“OYENOS, MI DIOS” HWB #358**

We pray for relationships with those who are different from us.  
We think especially of...

Jesus, you are our bridge builder, and in you we find the source of all love and peacemaking.  
Receive the prayers of our hearts for love and reconciliation among all people.

### **“OYENOS, MI DIOS” HWB #358**

We pray for the uncertainty of the future and the changes which face us today.  
We think especially of...

Jesus, our hope you are, and in you we find a sure guide to follow.  
Receive the prayers of our hearts for a future full of your care and blessing.

### **“OYENOS, MI DIOS” HWB #358**

Thank you, God, for calling us to be your witnesses.  
We are ready to tell the world that  
“through Jesus Christ everything in the world is being put together again.”  
Lead us into your great party of peace and celebration, we pray.  
Lead us home, to you.

### **“OYENOS, MI DIOS” HWB #358**

AMEN

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## **Pastoral Prayer**

For those who are depressed or discouraged.  
For those fighting illness or bearing wounds in their bodies.  
For those bound by anger who long for your peace.

**Jesus says, “Stay where you are.  
Watch and wait.  
The promise of God will come to you.”**

For leaders, each of us leading our lives before you.  
For leaders at work and school, in communities and nations.  
For leaders in this body: pastors, staff, elders, chairpersons, teachers.

**Jesus says, “Stay where you are.  
Watch and wait.  
The promise of God will come to you.”**

For those whose future is uncertain.  
For those whose certain future is unwelcome.  
For those whose lives callout for guidance.

**Jesus says, “Stay where you are.  
Watch and wait.  
The promise of God will come to you.”**

For those expecting new life.  
For those receiving new insight.  
For those who wait with joy for your new work and word.

**Jesus says, “Stay where you are.  
Watch and wait.  
The promise of God will come to you.”**

Jesus, for those who feel your absence.  
Jesus, for those who watch for your coming kingdom.  
Jesus, for the whole world, groaning for your Lordship, for your healing love.

**Jesus says, “Stay where you are.  
Watch and wait.  
The promise of God will come to you.”**

Jesus, we thank you that you have promised to come to us when we wait on you.  
You show us the way to love you and keep your commandments.  
You show us the face of God.  
You promise us the Spirit of God’s very self,  
to be with us and among us, as our counselor and guide.  
We thank you for the gift of your healing and your hope.  
We open ourselves, to receive your Lordship and your love,  
and to let it flow through us into the world.  
We come in your name, Jesus,  
in the power of the resurrection. AMEN

## Prayers of Petition

God, we bow in prayer this day, seeking the safety of your house, the beauty of your face.

We thank you, god, that you reach out your very self into our world  
to joyfully gather us into your celebration.

Weak and lost though we are through sin and wounds and illness,  
still you are looking for us, your sheep.

Like a tender shepherd, you search endlessly for all the ones who are farthest from your home;  
may the cries of these prayers from the frightened places of our lives  
guide you to us.

(Petitions for ourselves)

God, gather us, hold us close to your heart.

**God, bring us close to you.**

Hidden though we are in the dark, through lostness and separation from you,  
still you are looking for us, your treasure.

Like a careful housewife, you shine your light upon us in every nook and cranny of your domain;  
may the glitter of these prayers from the bleak corners of your world  
guide you to us.

(Petitions for our world)

Spirit, gather us, hold us close to your heart.

**God, bring us close to you.**

Scattered though we are, tiny parts of all your creation, your flock, your treasure in all the cosmos, still we thank you.

You have searched for us—with your keen ear, your sharp eye, your faithful heart.

Already you hold and celebrate us as we are gathered toward you.

We give you thanks as we find ourselves at that great party, at home with you.

(Prayers of thanksgiving)

Jesus, our shepherd, and great homemaker of the world,  
forgive us and bless us this day.

Share with us your spirit of simple trust and wild ecstasy  
amidst all the daily duties and cosmic crises of our times.

Jesus, gather us, hold us close to your heart.

**God, bring us home to you.**

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## Agricultural Prayer

Holy God our provider and sustainer,  
it is true that you told us not to worry about our economic futures.  
Jesus said, “Do not worry about your life, what you will drink or eat,  
or about your body and what you will wear.  
Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

Yet God we come with worrisome hearts and minds.  
Everyday we work hard for our futures and everyday see our livelihood threatened.  
For years we have tilled the land—planted in spring, cultivated in summer and harvested in fall.  
We have tried to be good stewards of the land you have entrusted to us.  
We have attempted to establish a way of life that goes far beyond simply being another “business.”  
We have worked hard not only to feed ourselves but the many other people of this world  
who trust that their supermarkets will be stocked full of food.

However, God, every time we check our DTN and Farm Dayta printouts, we find out that  
corn, soybeans, cotton, wheat, almonds, hogs, cattle, milk  
and the many other commodities we produce  
are barely meeting “break-even-price.”

God, we worry, we are afraid. What will happen if we can’t make land payments?  
What will happen if we can’t pay our operation costs?  
What will happen if commodity prices don’t hit a “bullish” streak?  
How will we feed our families?  
How will we survive?

“With a faith born not of words but of deeds” we will continue to till the land and harvest the crop.  
We will continue to be gracious of your earth, trusting that you, God,  
will remain steadfast to the end.

We ask that you be present in all our work and that you bless us with wisdom and comfort in these hard times.  
We pray for guidance and direction in all our decisions—if the time comes to find a new vocation,  
counsel us and show us a new way to go.  
Quiet our nagging fears and comfort our doubts and worries.  
Remind us that it is you who we ultimately serve and not ADM, Cargill or the Chicago Board of Trade;  
you, unlike all of these, will remain steadfast to the end.

Jesus promised us: “Do not worry about tomorrow.  
Just as God takes care of the birds of the air  
and the grass of the field, so will God take care of us.”

God, we ask for your care in this present crisis. AMEN

Willmar T. Harder, copyright 2000

## **Harvest Time Prayer**

Glory be to you almighty and most powerful God!  
A cycle has once again come to an end.  
The seed we planted in spring has sprung up and become a bountiful harvest.

We thank you, nurturing God,  
for the rich soil for our seed,  
and for the seed that is placed into the soil.  
for the rains that sustained and nurtured the plants,  
and for the plants which sprouted, bloomed and developed grain.  
for the machinery and physical health that allowed us to plant, cultivate and harvest,  
and finally for the harvest, the end result of our hard work and your blessing.

Almighty God, in every stage of our work we see your creating and cultivating power,  
from germination to harvest,  
from spring to fall.

Without your generating touch, our hard work would be in vain.  
For this we thank and praise you.

Now we dedicate our full silos, bins, and barns to you, God.  
May all that is done with this crop, whether for profit or loss, be acceptable to you.  
May our harvest become a blessing for many other people, just as it has been a blessing to us.

Accept our joyful thanksgiving and praise as we celebrate this year's harvest. AMEN

Willmar T. Harder, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for Healing of Racism**

God, we have learned from scriptures that you created us in your image.  
From the beginning the emphasis has been on calling all people into relationship with you.  
From scripture, we have learned that in Christ there is neither Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female,  
for we are all one in Christ.  
You are calling us into a healing relationship with all peoples and all races.  
We accept these truths for ourselves, but our human weaknesses can often find comfort in excluding others.  
God, forgive us where we intentionally exclude certain people.  
God, show us the true reflection of ourselves deep inside that keeps us from admitting when we are excluding  
others and that gives us a holier-than-thou-attitude, a condescending attitude.  
Help us to be honest with ourselves and name our prejudices and our fears.  
God, give us an open mind and heart to see where we are participating in racist acts, or saying harmful things  
that breed life into racism.  
Help us to learn to listen to your creation which is hurting from racism.  
Help us to be able to recognize racism within our hearts, within our church, and within our community.  
Give us a willing spirit to learn and to grow.  
For if we cannot embrace your people of many colors, then we are choosing to be outside your kingdom.  
For you are the one who has chosen your people. You are the gatekeeper, not us.  
We pray for healing and reconciliation of all races, and for the liberation from the ugliness of racism.  
We pray for all this in the name of Christ, the one who calls us to wholeness in all our relationships. AMEN

Nancy Kauffmann, copyright 2000

## Prayer for a Meeting

Ever present God, give ear to our prayer.  
We come to you this morning with tasks to complete,  
And we feel overwhelmed by them.  
We feel overwhelmed by the amount of things to be decided,  
By the effects of our deliberations,  
And by the short amount of time we have to work.

God, we need your sense of time.  
We seem always to be in a great hurry to complete our task and to reach an end.  
We admit that we often lack the patience that we desperately need to work for you.  
It is hard for us to slow down enough to realize that some growth takes time,  
That some ideas come about slowly,  
And that not all deliberations are quick.

Forgive us for not always being able to recognize those things which take time.  
Help us to recognize that our sense of time has been "messed up"  
By our society's need for speed.  
Help us today to hear your voice and feel your hand leading us  
Throughout this process, not just to an end.

Forgive us also for not always waiting to hear your voice.  
We desire to give you all the glory for the outcomes of this day,  
But we fear that to wait for you might mean rearranging our schedules.  
Help us to remember that you are why we are here.

God, grant us in our planning today a sense of your hope for the future.  
Teach us to look toward the future with excitement and trust.  
But, help us also to look at the past with reverence,  
For it has much to teach us.

Guide our thoughts and our words today,  
And come to us in our minds,  
That our ideas might be your ideas,  
And your vision might be ours. AMEN

Amanda A. Yoder, copyright 2000

## **Prayer of Lament** *Psalm 69*

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.  
I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.  
I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. (1-3)

My prayer is to you, O Lord.  
At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.  
With your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire;  
Let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.  
Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,  
Or the pit close its mouth over me.  
Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;  
According to your abundant mercy, turn to me.  
Do not hide your face from your servant,  
For I am in distress—make haste to answer me.  
Draw near to me, redeem me, set me free. (13-18)

I will praise the name of God with a song;  
I will magnify God with thanksgiving.  
This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.  
Let the oppressed see it and be glad;  
You who seek God, let your hearts revive.  
For the Lord hears the needy,  
And does not despise his own that are in bonds.  
Let heaven and earth praise God,  
The seas and everything that moves in them.  
For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah;  
And God's servants shall live there and possess it;  
The children of God's servants shall inherit it,  
And those who love God's name shall live in it. (30-36)

Lois Harder, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for a church in the midst of dilemma**

Oh God of light and truth, Oh Holy Spirit of wisdom and guidance, we call upon you in the midst of our confusion and darkness.  
We know and confess that for you there is no daylight nor darkness, for you can see through and through.  
Today, as we are in this dilemma, we humbly come to you, asking for light to understand your will.  
We come to you for truth, which will make us free, even from our own self-righteousness.  
We come to you for guidance, so that in our struggling, by faith we may attain to your righteousness and justice.

Over all, we pray that you strengthen the bond of your love in our hearts, that we may only seek the good of others.  
With your healing power, wipe away the hurt we have caused and the hurt we have felt.  
Restore us in your love, we cry to you. Now, as we go about this decision making, lead us by your Holy Spirit.  
Enlighten our eyes so that we may achieve your good and perfect will.  
And in doing so, may we rejoice in your name. We ask this, in the name of our Lord Jesus. AMEN

Pastor Romero, copyright 2000

Praying

## Prayer for Marriages

God, we thank you for designing us for love.  
We love because you first loved us.  
Thank you, God, our Friend, you never leave or forsake us.  
Thank you, Jesus, our Bridegroom, you embrace us as your Bride.  
Thank you, Spirit, our Advocate, you defend your people.  
As you have blessed us with your faithful love, teach us to bless one another.

**Fill us with your love.**

Today we pray you would bless our marriages:  
Bless those newly married and those married for years.  
Bless those who are joyful and those who are tearful.  
Bless those who hope for children and those who have none.  
Bless those raising children and those whose children have gone.

**Fill us with your love.**

Bless those who are not married out of choice.  
Bless those who yearn to be married and are not.  
Bless those who are engaged and those drawn toward marriage.  
Bless those who are married yet struggle to love.

**Fill us with your love.**

Bless those who have lost a partner to death or divorce.  
Bless those left alone or wounded by marriage; give them comfort and hope.  
Bless those married once more; keep their covenants strong.

**Fill us with your love.**

Bless our memories of first love and our hopes for renewed love.  
Bless our tenderness and our laughter, our sexuality and our strength.  
But most of all draw us deeper in love as we forgive and forgive again.  
By your grace and power, O God, guard our marriage covenants.

**Fill us with your love.**

God of love, help us protect and uphold our marriages.  
In all the seasons and designs of love, no matter where we find ourselves,  
help us reflect the honor and kindness that you have given us  
through Jesus, the Bridegroom, your son, our Lord.

**Fill us with your love.**

Nina Bartelt Lanctot, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for the family who has received a new baby**

We give thanks to you, O God, for life; for life that is renewed through the birth of this baby (name).  
Thanks for your blessing to this family through the coming of this new member,  
for that is what your Word says he/she is.

We give thanks for giving the opportunity to this family in having in their midst your cherished inheritance.  
In your name we bless this baby; may he/she be to your honor and glory.  
May he/she be for the joy and service to this family,  
and may they as a family bring testimony of your faithfulness and righteousness  
to the Christian community and world.

Give wisdom to our brother and sister (parents' names) to lead him/her into your path and truth.  
Give them grace as they raise him/her through life. In the name of Jesus we pray. AMEN

Pastor Romero, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for parents following the birth of their first child**

Our parenting God,  
We thank you for the gift of (child's name) .  
We are aware of the awesome responsibility You have entrusted to (parent's names) .  
You know their joy in his/her arrival and you know their apprehension and fear at the new task of parenting.  
God of all wisdom, we ask that you would give to (parents' names) the wisdom you've promised to those who ask.  
Remind them daily of your presence, leading and guiding them each step of the way.  
Remind them of your love for them and for (child's name) .  
May the love, which comes from you, be their guiding force as they begin their new call as parents.  
We ask these things in the name of the one who parents us. AMEN

Esther Lanting, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for the birth of a child** *Based on Deuteronomy 16:7 and Isaiah 54:13*

Our Father in heaven, we thank you this day for the gift of life which you have given to each and every one of us. We thank you for being a father who loves your children and cares for them.  
Today we thank you especially for the birth of (child's name),  
which you have given to (parent's name) and (parent's name).  
We thank you that (parent's names) are part of the family of God,  
and we pray your peace and strength be upon them as they raise this child.  
We understand that we as a congregation are called to "keep the words that you have commanded us in our hearts,  
and to recite your commands to our children and talk about them when we are at home,  
and when we are away, when we lie down and when we rise."  
We also thank you for the promise that all our children shall be taught by you,  
and that the prosperity of our children shall be great.  
Again we pray a special blessing on (child's name) and (parent's names),  
and we ask your lordship to be upon them.  
In the precious name of Jesus. AMEN

Joel Short, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for young person leaving for school**

Guiding God, today we lift up (name) to you,  
    asking for your blessing on him/her as he/she begins college (or trade school).  
As a young boy you went to the temple to study.  
As a man you taught others in the temple, in the meadows, on the mountains,  
    on the seas you taught by words and by actions.  
May those who teach (name) do so with respect  
    for the awesome and privileged task you have given them  
    understanding and depending on you to guide their words and lessons.  
As (name) begins his/her studies, may he/she increase in knowledge, wisdom and understanding,  
    first of you and your creation,  
    and also of the subject matter he/she pursues.  
We ask for your touch of rest after late nights of study,  
    times of fun to accompany the times of work,  
    and times of joy and friendship amidst loneliness from home.  
May (name) always know, believe, and sense that you walk both before and with him/her.  
We ask this in the name of the one who walks with us and teaches us. AMEN

Esther Lanting, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for a crisis situation or major decision** *Based on Philippians 1:3-11, and adapted from a prayer written by Ron Kennel*

O God, with joy we give thanks for (person or family's name) partnership with us in the gospel.  
We pray that the good work you began in (him/her/them) would be brought to completion  
    on the day of Jesus Christ.  
We pray that your love would grow more and more with knowledge and all insight to determine what is best,  
    so that they may be pure and blameless on the day of Jesus Christ,  
    and that they may be filled with the fruit of all righteousness  
    that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Joel Short, copyright 2000

## **Prayer after a disaster**

Merciful God, the pain of this day is beyond comprehension.  
Many have lost their homes, a few family members have died as a result of this terrible disaster.  
In our sorrow, our fear of what the future holds, maybe even in our anger, we look to you,  
    the creator of heaven and earth, for comfort and solace. Comfort, o comfort your people!  
We thank you for the promise that you are reconciling all things to you,  
    even the groans of creation will be heard and made complete in you at the end of time.

(Time of prayer for specific people who have lost property or loved ones.)

In this dark time, Lord, we ask that you walk beside each of us,  
    that we would feel your comforting arms around us.  
Go with us now as we begin the work of picking up the pieces. Grant us strength for the tasks ahead.  
In this we ask for your support and counsel, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Joel Short, copyright 2000

**Prayer for a time of crisis** *Based on Psalm 121; 27; Psalm 46:1-3, Matt. 6:26-30; 10:29-31*

Oh Lord, you are our light and our salvation.

Who, or what, shall we fear?

Our help comes from you, Oh Lord.

We lift our gaze to your mountains,

We look at the birds of the air, the flowers of the field.

We know the very hairs of our head are all numbered by you.

Therefore, we will not fear, We know we are of more value than the birds and the flowers,

and if you care for them, you will surely care much more for us.

You are our keeper, our defense.

We will wait on You.

We will be strong and let our hearts take courage.

We will not be anxious for tomorrow.

Nor will we fear, though the earth should change, or the mountains quake,

or the waters roar and foam.

For you know the things we need.

You are our refuge and strength,

our present help in trouble. AMEN

Esther Lanting, copyright 2000

**Prayer for a family in crisis** *When a child runs away from home*

Caring God,

We come to you today, fearful,

fearful for the safety of (name),

fearful of the issues that made him/her leave,

fearful for all of our futures.

We ask your arms of protection to reach around him/her,

keeping him/her safe from physical danger and evil influences.

Guide (name) to a safe place until he/she returns home.

We ask for your ways of wisdom to prevail when he/she returns

and the issues that led to this are sorted out.

We ask for your guidance to face the tomorrows.

Sheltering God,

be a shelter to (child's and parents' names) during this storm,

make their home a place where (name) can feel safe, loved and valued,

and where (parents' names) can feel loved and respected.

Remind them often that you walk with each of them.

May your love calm the winds and smooth the rough seas.

May your peace fill them today and in the days ahead.

And may your wisdom guide them.

We ask in the name of Jesus who knows our anguish. AMEN

Esther Lanting, copyright 2000

## **Prayer for faithfulness**

In our lives full of noise and motion, busyness, activity and pressure,  
we want to stop...and clear a place for you, O God.

**I will be still and learn of thee, Spirit of Life within.**

We are called by love to understand the great gulf between our two lives:

our life of work, roles, responsibility, so dependent on external conditions and the perceptions of others  
and our life in the innermost self where our spirits meet and are enriched by God's gracious spirit.

**I will be still and learn of thee, Spirit of Life within.**

We long, O God, for times of refreshment away from pollution:

noise pollutants--cars, engines, computers, pressure cookers, crying babies, dogs  
sight pollutants--signs, litter, pornography, weeds, junk  
spirit pollutants--prejudice, put-downs, controls

**I will be still and learn of thee, Spirit of Life within.**

We seek, Lord, release from oppressive feelings that bind us up:

fear, resentment, anxiety, regret, and guilt

Put within us peace, a forgiving spirit, true repentance, and great faith.

**I will be still and learn of thee, Spirit of Life within.**

We clear a place for you, O God, because we have heard of your greatness, have seen your grace in our lives, and  
desire to live fully aware in your presence.

**Help us to be faithful in waiting for you.**

Jane Stoltzfus Buller, copyright 2001

## **Prayer for healing**

We gather this morning to worship you, our healing God. We recognize that you have already healed us in many  
ways--and we recognize still, our need for healing. We come to you this morning, thanking you for those areas where  
we have been healed, made whole, perfected:

for those relationships that have been mended by your healing touch,  
for bodies racked with pain, now made free from pain,  
for emotional wounds once crippling us, now enabling us to pass along your healing love.

And at the same time, we come to you for healing:

for those wounds that have injured our spirits and continue to stab us,  
for those words that were said to us, perhaps even unknowingly, that have killed our joy,  
for those actions against us or against those we love, that have nearly crushed our breath from us.

From all this and much more--we need your healing touch, O lord. And so, this morning, we gather as your people,  
bringing to you our joys and sorrows, our healing and our wounds still in need of healing, our wholeness and our  
brokenness. We have come to worship you--to know you better--and to be known by you, our Lord and our healer.  
Amen.

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