

# Prayers for Use by our Friends At Edna Mahan



Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit  
Lebanon New Jersey

While we are apart, we offer this collection of prayers that you may join us in prayer across the days and weeks ahead. You remain dear to us and we hold all of you, inmates, officers and administrators, in our hearts and ever before God in our prayers. We at Church of the Holy Spirit remain committed to you as the Lord commands us:

Continue to remember those in prison  
as if you were together with them in prison,  
and those who are troubled  
as if you yourselves were suffering.

*Hebrews 13:3*

## **A Word from Scripture**

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;  
perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not  
abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

*2 Corinthians 4:8-9*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will  
give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for  
your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

*Matthew 11:28-30*

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow  
citizens with the saints and members of the household of  
God. *Ephesians 2:19*

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our  
Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:57*

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your  
Name: do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14*

God is within her, she will not fall. *Psalms 64:5*

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your trouble. But now he has reconciled you by Christ through his death to present you holy in God's sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. *Colossians 1:21-23*

O God, you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on you; for in returning and rest we shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be our strength. *Isaiah 26*

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. *Deuteronomy 31:8*

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *Psalms 23:4*

So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. *Isaiah 41:10*

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 a hope and a future. *Jeremiah 29:11*

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. *Philippians 4:8*

## Prayers Across the Day

### *A Collect for the Renewal of Life*

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *In the Morning*

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*

### *For Those we Love*

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to *your* never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that *you* are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For Guidance*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For Sharing the Love of Christ*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

*For Faith, Hope, and Charity*

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*For Listening to the Good Shepherd*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, forever and ever. *Amen.*

*For the Human Family*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and peoples may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*For Reliance on God's Mercy*

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of Self-Dedication*

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*For Following Christ*

Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*For Forgiveness*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and intervention of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*For Quiet Confidence*

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray you, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*In the Evening*

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen*

*For Trust in God*

O God, the source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For Sleep*

O heavenly Father, you give your children sleep for the refreshing of soul and body: Grant me this gift, I pray; keep me in that perfect peace which you have promised to those whose minds are fixed on you; and give me such a sense of your presence, that in the hours of silence I may enjoy the blessed assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



## *A General Thanksgiving*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your  
praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

## *For Others at Night*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or  
weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who  
sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless  
the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted,  
shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

*For the Close of the Day*

*The Song of Simeon begins and ends with this prayer:*

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit\*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep we may rest in peace.

*A Night Prayer*

Lord,  
it is night.

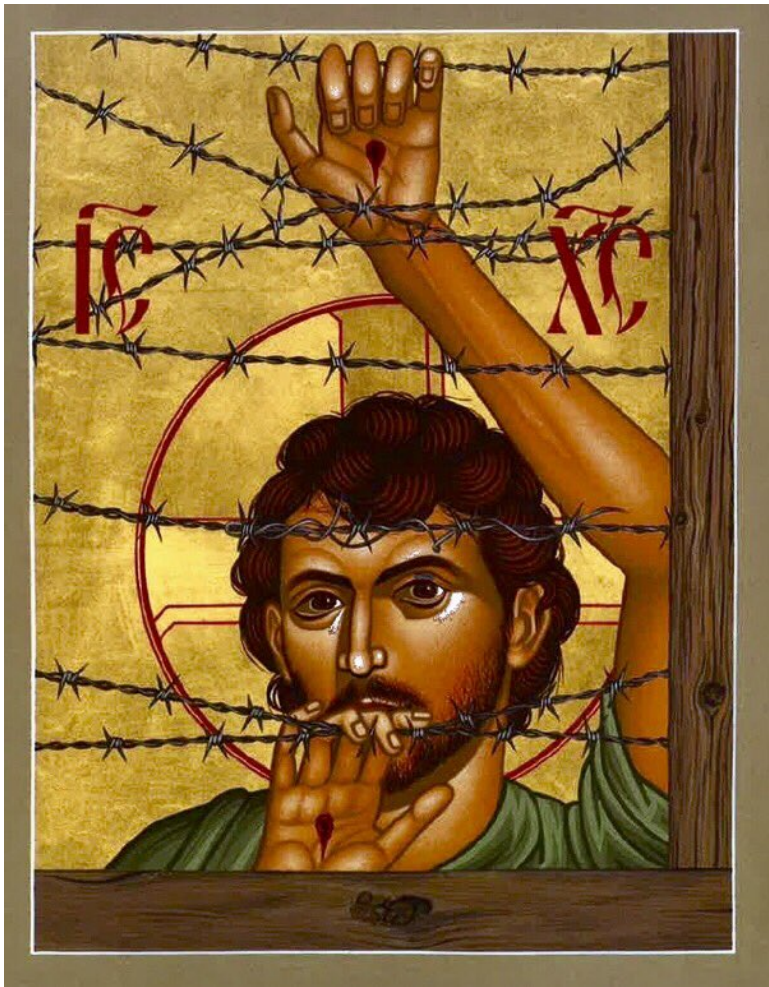
The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
what has not been done has not been done;  
let it be.

The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world  
and of our own lives  
rest in you.

The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
all dear to us,  
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
new joys,  
new possibilities.



Acknowledgements:

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