

MISCELLANEOUS PRAYERS

Affirmation of Life

God of Life,

We have the rare privilege of participating in the unique condition called life. So far as we know, ours is the only planet in the vast cosmos that hosts such a phenomenon.

Yet we treat this privilege in ways that trivialize it. We treat life as if it were a common occurrence, as if living things were made to be abused, destroyed, or thrown away.

Remind us of our place and help us make good use of the amazing opportunity that is ours. Guide us to a love of life like your love for the world.

Amen.

Affirmation of Praise

God of Grace and God of Glory,

Grace—your forgiveness

Glory—a striking sunset

Grace—that you truly love us

Glory—a thunderstorm

Grace—Jesus to reveal you to humanity

Glory—a waterfall

Grace—love between two people

Glory—the Grand Canyon

Grace—Helen Keller

Glory—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Grace—apples

Glory—peace between neighbors

God, you are magnificent.

Amen.

Affirmation of Hope

Mother of Hope,

All hope proceeds from your hope in creating the cosmos.

Within that overwhelming hope lies the hope for life.

Within that fruitful hope lies the hope for humanity.

And within that impressive hope, there is hope for us.

The hopes find fulfillment because of your abiding care.

Thank you.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Great God,

We believe you created the awesome universe.

We believe you made us in your image.

We believe you created us for freedom and dignity.

We believe you care what happens to us.

We believe you give life as a marvelous gift.

We believe you have faith in our ability to take good advantage of this gift.

We believe you sent Jesus to reveal to us who you are and to show us what living with you in mind is like.

We believe you will forgive us when we do not follow through on that ability.

We believe you provided hope and love as powerful influences for good in our lives.

We believe you made us more than physical beings and that life is not entirely bound to time.

We believe you made us so that our life is entirely bound to you.

Amen.

A Prayer of Faith

Keeper of My Soul,

When joy fills my heart and love envelopes me,
it is well with my soul.

When my life is hectic,
it is well with my soul.

When too many demands are made upon my time and energy,
it is well with my soul.

When pain afflicts my body or my spirit,
it is well with my soul.

When the world's troubles threaten to drown my hope,
it is well with my soul.

When conflict rages between nations or in my family,
it is well with my soul.

When I mourn the loss of loved ones or former abilities,
it is well with my soul.

When I meet you now or in the future, you have taught me to say,
"It is well with my soul."

Amen.

HYMN: "When peace like a river," No. 336, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

Hope in Christ

Bright Ray of Hope,
You brought hope into the world
that sins could be forgiven;
that enemies can learn to love;
that ethnic differences need not divide;
that women can know equality with men;
that slaves could be free;
that peace might prevail on earth;
that the year of Jubilee has real meaning;
that the dominion of God lies open to us.
May you shine brightly in our minds and hearts.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Mournful God,
The grief must be almost more than even you can bear.
For our stupid addiction to violence and the vast number of lives it costs,
For the petty and large-scale vindictiveness we perpetrate on one another,
For the gross neglect of the weak and vulnerable among us,
For the shameful way we treat the natural and extremely rare environment,
For the perverse pleasures that occupy our time and prevent us from enjoying
the good things of life,
We pray that we will act in such a way that we do not cause you further grief.
Amen.

Recalling the Homeless

You Who Are Our Home,
Save us from homelessness.
Save us from blindness to homelessness.
Save us from hearts hardened against the homeless.
Grant us the home in you that instills empathy for those in need—
refugees from war and from economic devastation.
Amen.

Prayer for Harmony

God of Harmony,
Our different voice ranges make lovely harmony possible.
Different colors make a rainbow vibrant.
Different personalities create lively conversation.
Different points of view provide a more complete picture.
Different languages express the wealth of human creativity.
Different religions share the richness of who you are.
We bow to honor the harmony you seek.
Amen.