

A Prayer for National Hospice and Palliative Care Week 2018
May 7-13, 2018

A PRAYER

O God, you hold us in the palm of your hand from birth to death, and even beyond. You know how frail we are, for death carries all human beings away. Your Son, Jesus Christ, experienced death, knowing this most human of human experiences. He has walked the path of emotional pain, weeping over the death of friends and standing with families at the bedside of the dead.

Give us the courage to walk with the dying, O God, for our instinct is to flee from death and to abandon the dying. Give us the courage to do the hard work, the meaningful work, of being with those who are dying and to walk with their loved ones through grief. As members of our communities confront death, make us willing to live out our commitment to be their community of care.

God whose glory is always present, open our eyes to see the beauty of relationships healed, reconciliations realized, and the meaning of individual lives celebrated at the death bed. May we in holy awe, bear witness to your presence with the dying, learning with them the beauty of trusting you – knowing that in life and in death we belong to you.

We thank you for doctors, nurses, palliative care staff who fulfill their calling with gracious presence and comfort. O God, move in the hearts of government leaders that they would provide the resources needed for palliative care to be available to all who wish such care. Move us as communities of faith and as individuals to not just talk the talk, but also to walk the walk of providing care to the dying, through building and supporting hospices and enabling the provision of palliative care.

We bring before you those who are dying, naming those we know by name..... Move us this day, this week, to be part of their caring community.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who brings us the promise of the resurrection. Amen.

Peter Bush, Moderator
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