

## **A Blessing For The Caregivers**

Interdenominational Service of Prayer

*Completed by Stepan Bilynskyy, Spiritual Care Associate*

OPENING RITE

### **Gathering Song**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Loving Father, the giver of life  
You are our support and you are always with us  
Even when we think you forgot us in our needs.  
Hear our prayers for support workers who are  
On everyday duty of care of those,  
Who are in suffering  
Who are weak and in need of perpetual help.  
Give strength and courage to our caregivers  
To be an instrument of your everlasting love  
And support to our residents  
And all those who are in need of your protection.  
**AMEN**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **First Reading**

*A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:4-11:*

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but only one God is served; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

#### **Gospel (Luke 6:30-31)**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke:

Give to everyone who asks you, and if everyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

All: praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

#### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### **Responsive Reading:**

Leader:

Blessed be these hands that touched life

Blessed be these hands that have felt pain

All: *Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One*

Leader:

Blessed be these hands that have embraced with compassion

Blessed be these hands that have clenched in anger, or withdrawn in fear

All: *Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One*

Leader:

Blessed be these hands that have cleaned beds and disposed of wastes

Blessed be these hands that have reached out and been received

All: *Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One*

Leader:

Blessed be these hands that have comforted the dying and held the dead

Blessed be these hands, we hold the future in these hands

All: *Blessed be our hands, as they are the work of your hands, O Holy One.*

\* (Adapted from "In Praise of Hands" by Diann Neu, *Waterwheel*, Winter, 1989)

*An opportunity is given for those present to share their own petitions*

#### THE BLESSING OF HANDS

#### **The Blessing of Hands** \*\*

Leader: When we reach our hands out to provide care, to do our work as part of others, we are saying to others, You are important to us, and you are cared for by the efforts of many who value you and your needs.

Holding your hands in front of you observe their appearance and think of all that you do with your hands each day which contributes to the health care needs of our community.

You have chosen to bless others with your hands in the work you do.

Now we are going to bless your hands in recognition of the Holiness of what you do everyday.

*(Placing your right hand in the palm of your left extend your hands to receive the blessing)*

Leader: O, Holy God, Bless these hands that they may continue to be a blessing to others.  
Amen.

All: Holy God, may your presence be in all that I do. Renew in me awareness of your sustaining love that touches me each day, opening the eyes of my heart to see that you touch the world through the work of my hands. Amen.

*\*\* This "Blessings of Hands" used with permission of the National Health Ministers, Presbyterian Church (USA), 100 Witherspoon St, Louisville, KY 40202 1-888-728-7228*

**All: 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 trespassed against us

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

For thine is the power and the glory forever.

Amen

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Bakerwoman God**

*by Rev. Dr. Alla Bozard Campbell  
(Episcopal Church of America)*

Bakerwoman God, I am your living bread.

Strong, brown, Bakerwoman God,

I am your low, soft and being-shaped loaf.

I am your rising bread,

Well-kneaded by some divine and knotty pair of knuckles,

By your warm earth-hands.

I am bread well-kneaded.

Put me in fire, Bakerwoman God,  
Put me in your own bright fire.  
I am warm, warm as you.

From fire, I am white and gold,  
Soft and hard, brown and round.  
I am so warm from fire.

Break me, Bakerwoman God.  
I am broken under your caring Word.

Drop me in your special juice in pieces.  
Drop me into blood.  
Drunken me in the great red flood  
Self-giving chalice, swallow me.

My skin shines in the divine wine.  
My face is cup-covered and I drown.  
I fall up in a red pool in a gold world  
Where your warm sunskin hand is there to catch and hold me.

Bakerwoman God, remake me.

**Internet sources used:**

Catholic Health Association of Canada website <http://www.chac.ca/>  
National Health Ministers PC(USA) [www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth](http://www.pcusa.org/nationalhealth)  
National Council of Churches in Australia <http://www.ncca.org.au>