

Prayers / Meditations

O God, whom we know as Love,
Help is to recognize the love that surrounds us and in which we have our being.
Help us to see ourselves as the loving people we are and can be.
In silence, now, we bring our mind's eye the people who have loved us and continue to love us,
people who are not here with us today, but whose love we carry with us.
People who are there every day, and whose love we sometimes take for granted.
People who might be within our circle of love, could we but extend it a little further.
In silence, now, we hold these people in our hearts.

(Silence)

In returning from silence, we ask that our hearts may be opened to all whose names and faces
have crossed our minds and that the love we share with the people in our lives may be our
abiding teacher.

Wayne B. Arnason

May we have eyes that see, hearts that love,
And hands that are ready to serve,
For we would take our part as good neighbors in this wide world.

Jackie Creuser, Adapted

For our community gathered here, for the spirit that called us together and drew us to this place:

We give thanks this day.

For moments we have shared with others; for times when we have reached out across barriers of
distance and fear; for times when others have reached out to us; for moments when we have
discovered another along our path:

We give thanks this day.

For this community of celebration and growth, introspection and solitude, and for those moments
of "that peace which passes all understanding":

We give thanks this day.

For our gathering together out of distant places; for our weaving together out of many separate
selves this hour of celebration and worship:

We give thanks this day.

Jane E. Mauldin

Gracious Spirit of creation

Dear God.

Be with us in these troubled times.

The way is often hard.

Our fears are too much with us.

The path to justice is never clear,

And the stakes are very high.

Help us find that ground of love

Which can support and nurture us.

Help us find that ground
On which we can stand
To help make hope and history rhyme.

Help us to know
That while we are the only ones,
We are not alone. Amen.

William G. Sinkford

As we sit here quietly, we are aware of our connections with each other in this room; we are aware of our connections with people of faith all around the world; we are aware of our connections with all of nature – in fact, the universe itself. May we truly experience and appreciate our interdependence with all life.

Rodney E. Thompson

Spirit of life, come to us to break down barriers; to widen horizons; to make us less judgmental. Help us to see the larger picture and the kinder conclusion; to love and let live; to embrace and forgive; to sustain and care.

Help us to reach out to our better selves, that we may love more and hate less, care more and reject less, that bound together by understanding we may sustain each other through trial and tribulation, through joy and happiness, through sickness and health.

Help us, O God, to be joined in a common purpose of hope and fulfillment. Renew and revive us. We seek a common, holy ground for one and all. Amen.

Rhys Williams