

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1900 Nicollet Avenue
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Pastoral Prayer
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Executive Minister

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God of Healing, we call to mind in your presence our dear ones who are ill this day. While our bodies are strong and capable of so many wonders, we are also fragile. Illness, injury and age weaken us. For those who are ill today, we ask assurance of your care and healing.

We name those who are ill today: We name them in our hearts, and we name them aloud in this time of prayer. We name them aloud not so that you will hear us more clearly—we know you hear even our silent thoughts—but we name them as our act of love on their behalf. Hear us as we name those who suffer any illness this day, those for whom worry is heavy on our hearts.

– a pause while names are spoken –

Hold these beloved ones close to you. Hold also those whose names were unspoken. Calm any anxiety they feel. Ease their pain. Wipe away their tears with a deep assurance of your love, and our love as well. Keep them in the mystery of your love that is everlasting, eternal.

For the many healings we give thanks, the myriad wonders you work, those of medicine and of mystery, we thank you. We acknowledge with profound gratitude the many among us who have come through everyday maladies—for every cold or flu that did not kill us even when it was so bad we wondered if it might, for successful day surgeries, for repaired tendons, mended bones and for aches that suddenly just went away. We thank you also for healing from profound and complicated illnesses, illnesses from which we had good reason to doubt we would recover: for cancer beaten, for depression decreased and addictions released into your divine care, for chronic illnesses that while challenging do not rob us of all joy. And we thank you, O God, for medical professionals and for medical treatment that gives us good quality of living despite leaky valves, elevated pressures and levels, anxiety, all manner of dysfunctions made functional by chemicals, surgery, treatments, remedies, therapy, procedures and care.

We pray also today for those who do not have access to medical care: those who do not have insurance, who are inadequately insured, who have to spend their life savings on hospital and nursing homes stays and who worry if they will ever climb out of the debt caused by their illness and treatment. We pray for your divine guidance as our legislators and leaders seek to address this grave problem in our society—a problem that will take our brightest minds, most compassionate hearts and creative imaginations. Help us to find a way toward a more just system.

Finally, and with great tenderness O God, we pray our prayers for those who were taken from us by illnesses too powerful for the human body or mind to overcome. Let our dear ones rest in your peace, and give us faith that is stronger than our sorrow, faith that even when it seems that illness has been stronger than healing, that even in death, still there is a healing that comes—a healing of hope, a healing of belief in a life eternal, a healing of release and a life of bliss in you.

God of healing, help us trust in your power to heal, and when we cannot trust in your power, then help us trust in your love. For your love alone is our final healing, love alone is our lasting cure, love is our balm for every inconsolable sadness or pain, love alone endures. Amen.