

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

As with all of the resources on this site, feel free to adapt these prayers as you see fit to match the needs of your team.

Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God,
as I go down into the deep of my own being.
Show me the hidden things.
Take me down to the spring of my life,
and tell me my nature and my name.
Give me freedom to grow
so that I may become my true self,
the fulfillment of the seed which
You planted in me at my making.

Out of the deep I cry unto thee, O God.
Amen.

George Appleton, Anglican Bishop and Author

Celtic Prayers from *Carmina Gadelica*

COME I THIS DAY

Come I this day to the Father,
Come I this day to the Son,
Come I to the Holy Spirit powerful;
Come I this day with God,
Come I this day with Christ,
Come I with the Spirit of kindly balm,
God, and Spirit, and Jesus,
From the crown of my head
To the soles of my feet;

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Come I with my reputation,
Come I with my testimony,
Come I to Thee, Jesu--
Jesu, shelter me.

DESIRES

May I speak each day according to Thy justice,
Each day may I show Thy chastening, O God;
May I speak each day according to Thy wisdom,
Each day and night may I be at peace with Thee.
Each day may I count the causes of Thy mercy,
May I each day give heed to Thy laws;
Each day may I compose to Thee a song,
May I harp each day Thy praise, O God.
May I each day give love to Thee, Jesu,
Each night may I do the same;
Each day and night, dark and light,
May I laud Thy goodness to me, O God.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

BLESSING OF THE KINDLING

God, kindle Thou in my heart within
A flame of love to my neighbour,
To my foe, to my friend, to my kindred all,
To the brave, to the knave, to the thrall,
O Son of the loveliest Mary,
From the lowliest thing that liveth,
To the Name that is highest of all.
O Son of the loveliest Mary,
From the lowliest thing that liveth,
To the Name that is highest of all.

GOD'S AID

God to enfold me,
God to surround me,
God in my speaking,
God in my thinking.

God in my sleeping,
God in my waking,
God in my watching,
God in my hoping.

God in my life,
God in my lips,
God in my soul,
God in my heart.

God in my sufficing,
God in my slumber,
God in mine ever-living soul,
God in mine eternity.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Thoughts

God's will would I do,
My own would I bridle;
God's due would I give,
My own due yield;
God's path would I travel,
My own path refuse;
Christ's death would I ponder,
My own death remember;
Christ's agony would I meditate,
My love to God make warmer;
Christ's cross would I carry,
My own cross forget;
Repentance of sin would I make,
Early repentance choose;
A bridle to my tongue would I put,
A bridle on my thoughts would I keep;
God's judgment would I judge,
My own judgement guard;
Christ's redemption would I seize,
My own ransom work;
The love of Christ would I feel,
My own love know.

Supplication

O Being of life!
O Being of peace!
O Being of time!
O Being of eternity!
O Being of eternity!
Keep me in good means,
Keep me in good intent,
Keep me in good estate,
Better than I know to ask,
Better than I know to ask!
Shepherd me this day,
Relieve my distress,
Enfold me this night,
Pour upon my thy grace,
Pour upon me thy grace!

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Thou, My Soul's Healer

Thou, my soul'd healer,
Keep me at even,
Keep me at morning,
Keep me at noon,
On rough course faring,
Help and safeguard
My means this night.
I am tired, astray and stumbling,
Shield thou me from snare and sin.

Petition

Be thou a smooth way before me,
Be thou a guiding star above me,
Be thou a keen eye behind me,
This day, this night, forever.
If only thou, O God of life,
Be at peace with me, be my support,
Be to me as a star, be to me as a helm,
From my lying down in peace to my rising anew.

The Journey Prayer

God, bless to me this day,
God, bless to me this night;
Bless, O bless, thou God of grace,
Each day and hour of my life;
Bless, O bless, thou God of grace,
Each day and hour of my life.
God, bless the pathway on which I go,
God, bless the earth that is beneath my sole;
Bless, O God and give to my thy love,
O God of gods, bless my rest and my repose;
Bless, O God and give to my thy love,
And bless God of gods, my repose.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

JOURNEY BLESSING

Bless to me, O God,
The earth beneath my foot.
Bless to me, O God,
The path whereon I go ;
Bless to me, O God,
The thing of my desire ;
Thou Evermore of evermore.
Bless Thou to me my rest.

Bless to me the thing
Whereon is set my mind,
Bless to me the thing
Whereon is set my love ;
Bless to me the thing
Whereon is set my hope ;
O Thou King of kings,
Bless Thou to me mine eye !

Contemporary Prayers in the Celtic style

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Take these hands,
these hearts and souls,
all we have and all we are,
as our daily offering to you.

Your kingdom come, Lord,
in our hearts and worship;
Your will be done, Lord,
in our lives and service.

Circle us, Lord, with your love, be the warmth seen in our smile.
Circle us, Lord, with your peace, be the calm within our hearts.
Circle us, Lord, with your joy, be the song we choose to sing.
Circle us, Lord, with your arms, be the life we choose to live.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Good shepherd walk with us.

Bread of Life sustain us.
Living Water refresh us.
Spirit of God work in us.
Word of God speak through us.
Three in One embrace us.

God of the journey,

the light
by which we see,
the comfort
when we stumble,
the word
that lifts our hearts,
the footsteps
we shall follow,
be our companion
through this day.

Lord, teach us

to become
imitators of you,
and encourage
those of us
who learn slowly.

Thank you

for the privilege of life,
for the beauty of life,
for the love
of life,
for the joys
of life,
for the tears
of life,
for the hope
of life.
Thank you

Grant us, Lord,

listening ears,
eyes that see,

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

willing hands,
humble hearts,
words that speak,
faith that stands.
Help us, Lord
to be everything
we're called to be.

Help us to accept with grace
those things we cannot do,
and concentrate instead
upon the gifts we have from you.

Creator God,
causing sun to rise and set,
warm these hearts with your sweet love.
Jesus Christ,
living water, word of life,
pour into these thirsty hearts.
Holy Spirit,
divine presence, comforter,
guide these feet to safer paths.
Three in One,
who is unity and peace,
embrace this, your fragile earth.
That your name
might be glorified, lifted high
above the turmoil in this world.
Amen

Take that which we are,
the potter's chosen clay,
and with your hands
create from us
something beautiful today.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

God of wholeness, God of Grace,
to you we bring our thanks and praise.

To a world that searches
you are a lamp that shines,
to a world that is hungry
you are food that sustains,
to a world that suffers
you are hope of release,
to a world that's broken
you are one who restores,
to a world full of hate
you are love that forgives,
to a world that denies
you are truth that endures.

To you we bring our thanks and praise,
God of wholeness, God of Grace.

Grant wisdom to all those
leading school assemblies;
inspire their teaching,
enliven their presentation,
and in those precious moments
open the eyes of children
to the possibility of a God
who loves them as they are,
yet desires for them much more.
Lord, may seeds of faith be sown
that in days to come might grow,
and, when the season's right,
blossom and yield such precious fruit.

Awesome God,
to you belongs our worship,
the sweet melody in our hearts
that infuses all we are
and everything we do.
May it resound in this place
and wherever we go,
that the melody we share
through our words and lives
might become the song
that this world sings.
To your praise and glory. Amen

In the busyness of this day,
bring peace,
a moment of tranquillity,

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

sacred space
to be alone with you
and listen.
In the busyness of this day,
dear Lord, bring peace.

In this busy world
that we inhabit,
grant us space
to rest awhile -
by the still waters
of your peace,
to hear the whisper
of your voice,
and feel the warmth
of your breeze
within our souls.
Grant us space
to rest awhile.

Bless us with strength
when faith is wounded
by the world around us.
Bless us with patience
when our prayers are
seemingly unanswered.
Bless us with peace
when daily schedules
start to overwhelm us.
Bless us with joy
in quiet moments
and simple pleasures.
Bless us with love
in sensing your arms
reaching to embrace us.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Grant us, Lord, a spirit of generosity
that goes beyond both rich and poor
and the giving of our hard-earned cash,
to the investment of our hearts and lives
into your more profitable plan,
demonstrated by your own Son,
developed for the good of everyone.

God of the journey,
may you be both
traveling companion
and mountain guide
on this, our daily walk;
lest unprepared
or ill-equipped
our feet should stumble
on uneven ground,
or clouds obscure
the destination
that we so long to see.

We thank you, Gracious God
for Hallelujah moments.
Those turning a corner
and meeting a long-lost friend
moments.
Those climbing a mountain
and standing in awe of the view
moments.
Those wiping of tears
from our eyes as a baby is born
moments.
Those welcoming back
a prodigal child into our arms
moments.
Those answers to prayer
at times when we feel totally helpless
moments.
Those sighs of relief
at the end of a dear friend's suffering
moments.
For these and all Hallelujah moments,
we thank you, Gracious God.

Gracious God, in so many ways
this day is a mystery unfolding,
for we do not know what it will bring

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

or what might be expected from us,
and so we offer both to you -
the day that we walk into
and the tasks that we shall face,
that both might be blessed
by your presence and grace.

Another week unfolds,
and we make our choice
to embrace
or walk past
the challenges it brings.
So as we close the door
and begin our daily
journeying with you,
be with us, Lord,
use us as only you
can use us,
that through your grace
we might bring
your blessing
into someone's life
today.

In this your beautiful
but fragile world,
bless those
who dedicate their lives
to its care,
who within their hearts
have a passion
to protect its oceans,
forests, plants
and creatures,
who are stewards
of this world
that is our home;
this world,
created by your hand,
given life by your breath,
- a precious place.
This, your gift to us;
its waters refreshing,
its soil providing,
its air sustaining.
In this your beautiful
but fragile world

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

bless those
who dedicate their lives
to its care.

For creativity expressed
in so many forms
we give you thanks.
For artists who
with simple brushstrokes
capture the essence
of a beautiful scene;
composers who interpret the music
playing in their souls
into notes upon a page;
writers who
with skillful use of words
transport our minds
into another place,
and like Michelangelo
those who can release the angel
inside a block of stone.
For creativity expressed
in so many forms
we give you thanks.

In a world full of complexity,
technology and distraction,
speak to us, Creator God,
through the beauty of simplicity;
in rising sun and starlit skies,
gentle breeze, flowers, trees,
mountain tops and sacred places,
birds singing, children's laughter,
street musicians, smiling faces,
watching as the world goes by.
Speak to us, Creator God through the beauty of simplicity and fill our hearts with joy.

Reveal yourself
dear Lord, this day
in the special places
where we can be alone.
Reveal yourself
in the busy places
where noise is all around.
Reveal yourself
in the smiling faces
of friends and family.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Reveal yourself
in the sullen faces
of people passing by.
Reveal yourself
dear Lord, this day,
and by your grace
bless this beautiful
but fragile world with joy.

Release the gifts within us, Lord,
that through fear or hesitation
we have yet to acknowledge or use,
that we might become the Church
you always wanted us to be,
a listening, caring, creative people,
a healing, giving and praying people
filled with the Spirit of love and grace,
your living body here in this place.

We pray for all those for whom
each day is a continuing struggle
to find suitable employment -
searching for vacancies, filling endless forms,
attending interviews, rejection letters
or no responses at all.
Back to square one,
making ends meet on limited means,
trips to the food bank, second hand clothes.
Lord of compassion
bring hope where there is none, and opportunity to those
who long to be productive
and contributing members
of their families and community.

May we know you well enough
to be able to express
within our prayers
the doubts and uncertainties
that often trouble us,
and those distractions
that get between us,
and be confident
in the knowledge
that you understand,
having walked this path before,
and now walk alongside us,
never more than a heartbeat away,

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

eternally available
to draw us closer, once more, to you.

For difficult decisions

that must be made today
affecting the lives of others
in hospitals, homes and workplaces,
grant courage and compassion
in equal measure,
and for those who are affected
bring an unexpected peace,
and understanding
of the road that they must follow.

Open our eyes

to the beauty within
an artist's brush,
a writer's pen.
Open our ears
to the glory within
a major chord
and symphony.
Open our minds
to the truth within
a seed that's sown
and thoughts set free.
Open our hearts
Creative God
to creativity!

Make us a people

worthy of your kingdom, Lord
who are extravagant in praise,
diligent in prayer,
generous in service,
slow to anger, swift to love,
a blessing and a burning light
within this dark and fragile world.
Make us a people
worthy of your kingdom, Lord.

Bless us with strength

when faith is wounded
by the world around us.
Bless us with patience
when our prayers are
seemingly unanswered.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Bless us with peace
when daily schedules
start to overwhelm us.

Bless us with joy
in quiet moments
and simple pleasures.

Bless us with love
in sensing your arms
reaching to embrace us.

Help us to see others

through the lens of your eyes,
that we might see beyond
the outward appearance,
and our own prejudice,
to the person who lies within -
and beyond the bluster,
bitterness, aggression,
reticence, joy or sadness,
all those attributes that seem
somehow to define them,
to the image of the divine
that was crafted deep within them
at the moment of their creation.

Help us to see others through the lens of your eyes.

Gracious God, may we know

the gift of generosity
and the joy that it can bring.
Generous with time,
helping those who need a hand.
Generous with care,
being there when times are bad.
Generous with wealth,
thankful that we have so much.
Generous with hope,
reassuring those who fear.
Generous with prayer,
when there's illness or distress.
Generous with love,
giving without counting cost.
Gracious God, may we know
the gift of generosity
and the joy that it can bring,
both to those who receive
and to the one who gives.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

We pray for families

who, for various reasons

find themselves

living beyond their means, unable to provide

even life's essentials without borrowing more, despairing more,

sinking deeper into debt.

Oh Father, that we might be a compassionate nation,

more ready to give than take away,

more ready to love than to condemn,

more ready to lend a helping hand,

working together

for the common good

of all your children

within this land.

Through Jesus Christ,

who took the little

that was available

and shared it such

that all were fed,

this we pray. Amen

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Lord, bless the many

who, over the years
have been a blessing to us;
who introduced us to you
and nurtured a new-found faith;
who were encouragers
to persevere when times were tough;
who were available,
a hand to hold, a listening ear,
and who continue
to remember us in prayer.
May we, so richly blessed
be imitators of these saints,
drawing others into your presence,
kneeling with them at your feet,
being with them on the journey,
encouraging new life.

May we become change-makers

in our neighborhood, hands of love
reaching out
where there is need, sowing seeds
where one day
flowers begin to bloom. May we become change-makers
in our daily lives, standing up,
speaking out
for what is right, confronting
all that is not
in this our fragile world. May our voice
become the wind
that those in power cannot ignore.

For all who we love,

both family and friends,
be that constant presence
in their daily lives
with whom they can share
both joys and sorrows,
and know they can turn to
in times of trouble.
Be the rock they choose
to build their lives upon,
that sure foundation on which they can depend.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Bless our families;

mothers, fathers,
daughters, sons.
Protect them
from all that might harm.
Prosper them
in times of hardship.
Instruct them
in the ways of goodness.
Prepare them
for both joy and sorrow.
Unite them
within your arms of love.
Daughters, sons,
mothers, fathers,
bless our families,
Lord, we pray.

For those who walk more slowly

through this world
than in the days
when they were young,
may each step
be made lighter,
and their joy be greater,
for seeing beauty
in little things
that the hurrying pass by.

Lord, help us accept with grace

that this journey of life
is limited both by time
and the process of growing old.
May we leave the path
a little easier to follow,
less overgrown with weeds
or thorns likely to cause pain,
an encouragement for others
to step out in faith with you.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

(A prayer for those with dementia)

Memory fades,
and recollections
become hazy clouds,
fading outlines
of strangers' faces
and forgotten places.
Even the familiar,
loved ones and names
that once tripped lightly
off the tongue
cause confusion,
in what seems
a cruel dismantling
of a life once lived.
Compassionate God,
for all who live in fear
of what they might become,
and those already walking
down this lonely road
we call dementia,
grant them peace.
May each moment,
however brief,
be filled with joy
not sorrow,
and your love be seen through those
who care for these
your loved and fragile people.

Thank you, Lord

for the wisdom of age,
such a valuable guide
for those walking
unfamiliar
or hazardous routes.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

We pray for those who find
difficulty in remembering;
for whom once-familiar faces
are becoming strangers,
and treasured memories
disappear from memory's store.
Lord, grant understanding
to those who care for these,
your vulnerable children,
and dignity to those
who suffer in this way.
May they know and feel
your love surround them,
and every moment,
though soon forgotten,
be a moment filled with joy.

Thank you, Lord, for those
who have served you faithfully
throughout their lives,
and now, with advancing years
and confined within their homes,
are content to spend time
in prayerful intercession
for the town in which they live,
and for those of us more able
than they now find themselves
to continue with the task
of building your kingdom
in these hearts and in this place.
Bless their faithfulness
and the offering of their prayers,
Gracious Lord, we pray. Amen.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

God of compassion and grace,

we pray for all those who,
through age and in infirmity
find themselves imprisoned
within the loneliness of home,
watching a world outside
that once had their
full involvement,
increasingly pass them by.
Be with and bless them, Lord,
along with family and carers
calling through the week to help.
May they know that they are loved,
still precious in your sight,
and feel your arms support them
in the day and through the night. Amen

Wherever your children have woken

to the company
of a familiar
loneliness,
and this day,
like any other,
seem devoid
of meaning or life,
may they know
the continual warmth
of your companionship,
the comfort of your words,
and their daily solitude
be filled with song

Raise us up, Lord

when we are weary,
encourage us
when we are low;
speak to our hearts
by your sweet Spirit,
and lead us, Lord
where we should go.

Gracious God, bring healing,

peace and calm to those
troubled with depression,
and such health issues

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

that make it impossible
to open the front door
and welcome each new day,
summon up the energy
to make their way to work
or school, meet up with friends,
communicate with family
or address the things that make
each morning so difficult to face.
Wrap them in your embrace,
circle them with love,
and bring restoration
and completeness
to lives that are broken,
that these, your children,
might become the people
you long for them to be.

For those who walk

through an enveloping darkness, obscuring their vision
of a world that would accept
and love them
just as they are;
a darkness
that cannot simply be relieved
by exposure to light
or medication
several times a day;
a darkness
striving for a level of success
that will bring a cure,
where sadness
will be no more.

For those who walk
through the darkness
of depression, dear Lord,
we pray for healing,
wholeness, light,
and the warmth of your embrace.

God of compassion,

draw near to those who,
even in the midst
of a crowded place,
know only loneliness
and the chill of isolation.
Stand beside them,

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

friend of the friendless,
lover of the lost,
and in your warm embrace
may they understand
how much they are loved,
and understanding, have peace.

For all with low self-esteem,
who lack confidence
and undervalue their worth
within your kingdom,
draw close to them, Lord,
open their hearts and minds
to the real valuation
you place upon their lives,
and by your Holy Spirit
fill their emptiness within
with the fullness of your love.

Be a constant presence
in the lives of those
who are lonely,
that certain voice
reminding them
that within solitude,
contentment can be found,
and mountaintops revealed
in the most unlikely of places.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

We bring to you, Lord,
all those for whom home
has gradually become a prison,
whether through in infirmity,
isolation or irrational fear;
whose window into the world
is con ned to a single street
and the strangers passing by.
Bless carers, neighbors,
and all who keep an eye
on these, your vulnerable people,
and in their solitude
be an ever-present source of comfort,
the one to whom they can turn
without fear of ridicule,
who will love and accept them
just as they are,
and in your time, and theirs,
bring healing.

We pray for healing and peace
for the stresses and strains
within family relationships.
For couples who have lost
the love that they once had,
and their lives are drifting apart.
For parents who no longer
can control their children,
and are beginning to despair.
For families who struggle
to live within their means
and not slip deeper into debt.
For children who walk into
a more uncertain future
with difficult choices to make.
For the stresses and strains
within family relationships
we pray for healing and peace.

Bring comfort, merciful Lord
to all who are fearful of outcomes
for those whom they love,

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

who wait anxiously for news
that will ease their distress;
parents, children, siblings, friends
feeling helpless, anticipating loss.
Bring comfort, through the love
of those who surround them.
Bring comfort, as your arms
reach out to enfold them.
Bring comfort, dear Lord we pray.

For all your children

who begin this day
with a heavy heart,
self-doubt, anxiety,
tormented by fear,
living with stress,
may your presence
within their darkness
bring not only light
but understanding
of a love so strong
that can protect us
against the worst
that life can throw,
and in the calm
when storm subsides,
still will not let us go.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

God of compassion,

grant peace, we pray
for all those who,
awaiting the results
of diagnostic tests
are fearful
of the consequences
for themselves,
their family and friends.
May they know
deep in their hearts
that certain knowledge
that you are never closer
than in our darkest day,
your light enough
for us to see ahead,
your strength enough
to carry us through.
God of compassion,
grant peace, we pray.

We pray for all whose lives

have been affected by Ebola and similar epidemics,
who have seen loved ones
taken by such dreadful diseases
and are naturally fearful.
We pray for townships
and communities
where daily life
has become a lottery,
where the winners
simply do not die.
We pray for aid workers,
soldiers, medics and nurses
who risk their lives
to help those affected,
and the scientists
striving to find cures.
Gracious and loving God,
we pray for wisdom, knowledge,
compassion and grace,
for this is one battle
that we cannot fight alone.

For all who are imprisoned

through sickness or fear,
unable or unwilling

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

to set foot beyond the door
of that called home,
where the world beyond
can only be glimpsed
through window pane, newspaper print or TV screen -
bring wholeness
into these fragile lives,
bring release
even for a little while,
bring healing
of body, mind and soul.
May the door
which confines them
be opened wide,
and the beauty
within their lives
become a blessing for us all.

For all who struggle
through storms of life,
physical or spiritual,
we pray for peace, calmer days,
respite from gales
that threaten
to overwhelm them.
And when clouds pass
and storm subsides,
may they be given
a firm foundation
for any necessary restoration,
upon a cornerstone
that can withstand the fiercest blow.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

We pray for all whose lives
are consumed by caring
or the long-term needs
of children, parents,
the elderly or infirm,
and whose patience,
love and commitment
is sometimes tested
beyond the point of breaking.
Grant them strength, Lord.
Bless them as they give
from that deep well
within their hearts,
and in moments of despair,
draw near, and hold them
safe within your loving arms.

For lives that seem broken,
lying derelict on the ground
upon which they were built,
Lord, bring your restoration.
Raise up that which has fallen,
strengthen all that is weak,
repair damage within and without
and rebuild with stone that can
withstand the fiercest of storms,
that these lives, these temples
where together we reside,
might once again reflect
within their windows
your beauty and your grace.

Bless those known to us
who today are suffering
from sickness or infirmity.
Draw close to them, we pray,
heal both mind and body
with your gentle touch,
and pour your Spirit
like a refreshing stream
into every corner of their lives,
restoring them to wholeness.

Lord, for all whose lives
are imprisoned by pain,
may they know release.
Where pain is physical,

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

in mind or body,
bring relief through
your healing touch,
and the skill of doctors.
Where pain is emotional,
through hurt or loss,
bring relief through
your comforting touch,
and the love of others.
Lord, for all whose lives
are imprisoned by pain,
may they know release.

For carers in this world,
young and old,
whose love, time,
and freedom,
sometimes even childhood
is given sacrificially
for one who is in need,
may they know your blessing,
through good days and bad,
and receive as they have given
love in good measure,
flowing as a gentle river
into their hearts and lives.

God of love and mercy,
embrace all those
whose hearts today
overflow with grief,
unanswered questions
and such a sense of loss.
Grant them space
to express their tears.
Hold them close
through the coming days.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

We pray for the Church,
the children of God
clothed in so many colors
throughout this world.
God's rainbow people!
Beyond the divisions
and within our diversity
may there be found
a unity of purpose,
and eagerness
to be image-bearers
of the One we serve,
and, empowered
by the Holy Spirit
may we become change-makers
in this beautiful
but troubled world.

God of all people,
grant understanding
between those
of many faiths and none;
a mutual respect that goes
beyond personal opinion,
engaging in dialogue
rather than using
the language of aggression,
or engendering distrust,
a respect that acknowledges
that we are all of us
actively engaged
in a journey of discovery
for that which we called "Truth"

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

Barriers fall down

in your kingdom, Lord.
Social class, wealth
and upbringing
count as nothing
in your evaluation
of our potential,
and your love for those
you are pleased to call brother,
sister and family -
your extended family
throughout this world,
in all its shades and diversity.
O that we might also see
beyond outward appearance
and the color of a skin,
to the heart that beats inside;
that within your kingdom
here on earth, Lord,
our own personal barriers
might fall down
and your family grow in love.

For your people, Lord

wherever they might be,
brothers and sisters in Christ
who like us begin this day
with mixed emotions;
hopes and fears,
joys and sorrows,
peace and pain,
anticipation,
Lord, by your Spirit
create lives of faith
from such rough
and fragile stones
and transform us
into the people
we were meant to be,
reflections of your love
that this world,
touched by our lives, can see.

We bring to you, loving God,

this world and all your children
at the start of this new day.
For all who sing out

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

in praise and worship,
may their lives resound with song.
For those who bring fears
to lay at your feet
grant strength to carry on.
For those without words
but tears in their eyes
enfold them in your love.
For all who cry out
in pain and anguish
bring comfort and release.
We bring to you, loving God
this world and all your children
at the start of this new day,
may we be blessed
and become a blessing,
God of love, we pray.

Thank you for the extended family
that is your Church worldwide,
our brothers and sisters in Christ
who we shall never know in this life,
but have an eternity in which to enjoy
their fellowship in the life to come.
May the prayer and worship
that we offer here on earth
rise as a fragrant offering,
to enhance the heavenly chorus
already praising your glorious name.
Amen.

Prayers in Support of Spiritual Formation for Teams

For all whose home

is shop doorway,
railway arch,
overnight hostel,
any temporary
dwelling place,
for whom winter
is a familiar foe
taking its toll
on weak and frail.
Lord, bring comfort
through cold nights,
somewhere to sleep,
help for the sick;
and bless the saints
who leave the warmth
of their own homes
to do what they can,
support the weak,
feed the hungry,
be your arms
embracing the lost.

Lord, forgive our prejudice

and judgement of others,
which is often based
on our assessment
of your point of view,
but seen through our eyes.
We fail to understand
that your mercy and grace
are available to all
who will, in humility,
kneel down at your feet,
not simply those for whom
we would give our approval.

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