

## Litanies

### Litany I:

ONE: Come, share the Spirit moving among us,  
TWO: Weaving in and through this place;  
ALL: **Breaking down the walls that split and divide,  
Bringing wholeness to embrace.**

ONE: Come, Living Spirit, bloom in our hearts  
TWO: As when the desert bursts with life;  
ALL: **Take thirsty souls, fill them with your love,  
And remove all greed and strife.**

ONE: Out of the many diverse and differing abilities we have  
been given,  
ALL: **May we share our time and talents to build a place  
of welcome.**

ONE: Out of the variety of differing incomes we earn,  
ALL: **May we share the means that sustains the work of  
justice in God's world.  
Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray for all God's people.

For people who are blind and cannot see, and for those who can  
see but are blind to people around them,

**Response: God, in your mercy help us touch each other.**

Leader: For people who move slowly because of accident, illness

or disability, and for those who move too fast to be aware of the world in which they live,

**Response: God, in your mercy help us work together.**

Leader: For people who are deaf and cannot hear, and for those who can hear but who ignore the cries of others,

**Response: God, in your mercy help us respond to each other.**

Leader: For people who learn slowly, for people who learn in different ways, and for people who learn quickly and easily but often choose ignorance,

**Response: God, in your mercy help us grow in your wisdom.**

Leader: For people who have chronic illnesses for which there is no known cure or relief, and for people who live in unholy fear of developing a chronic illness,

**God, in your mercy help us and heal us.**

Leader: For families, friends and caregivers who serve people with disabilities, and for those who feel awkward in their presence,

**Response: God, in your mercy help us see each other with your eyes.**

Leader: For people who think they are worthless and beyond your love, and for people who think they don't need your love,

**Response: God, in your mercy help accept your love.**

Leader: For people who feel isolated by their disabilities, and for people who contribute to that sense of isolation,

**Response: God, in your mercy change our lives.**

Leader: For all the people in your creation, that we may learn to respect each other and learn how to live together in your peace,

**Response: God, in your mercy bind us together.**

**All: AMEN**

*Written by the Rev. Kate Chipps*

*Adapted by Ginny Thornburgh*

Pastor: The Lord calls us as his covenant people to care for each other.

**Congregation: We who belong to Christ must answer his call to serve each other in his name.**

Pastor: Remarkable examples in the Bible teach us how God uses each member of his community in surprising ways to enrich and enlarge his church.

**Congregation:**            **Our Lord is our supreme example. He wanted and welcomed people with disabilities whom society rejected as useless.**

Pastor:                        We have not always made it possible for people with disabilities to participate fully in this community. We have often isolated them and their families.

**Congregation:**            **We pledge ourselves to be the caring church we should be, paying special attention to the needs and gifts of people with physical, sensory, mental, and emotional impairments.**

Pastor:                        We pledge ourselves to remove the barriers which keep these people from being fully included in our fellowship:

**Congregation:**            **The barrier raised by attitudes we hold which make those with disabilities feel unwanted among us; the barrier raised by communication we carry on which ignores those who don't hear, see or learn like us; the barrier raised by architecture we tolerate which makes it hard for some people to join us.**

**All:**                            **Lord, alert us to barriers. Teach us to eliminate them; and show us that in serving we will be served. AMEN.**

by Linda J. Peterson

## **Litany 2: Praying for All God's People: A litany for wholeness**

by [Kate Chipps](#)  
[Issue #52](#)

*“Praying for All God’s People” was submitted by Fred D. Rietema, Chief Chaplain at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle, Washington. It is reprinted by permission from That All May Worship: An Interfaith Welcome to People with Disabilities, produced by The National Organization on Disability, 910 16th St. NW, Suite 600, Washington DC 20006, (202) 293-5960.*

**KATE CHIPPS, ADAPTED BY GINNY THORNBURGH**

Let us pray for all God's people. For people who are blind and cannot see, and for those who can see but are blind to people around them.

**Lord, in your mercy help us touch each other.**

For people who move slowly because of accident, illness, or disability, and for those who move too fast to be aware of the world in which they live,

**Lord, in your mercy help us work together.**

For people who are deaf and cannot hear, and for those who can hear but who ignore the cries of others,

**Lord, in your mercy help us respond to each other.**

For people who learn slowly, for people who learn in different ways, and for people who learn quickly and easily but often choose ignorance,

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**Lord, in your mercy bind us together.**

*All: Amen.*