



PRESBYTERIAN HEALTH NETWORK

A Network of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA)

## *Consider the Lilies . . .*



### **Prayers**

#### **Staying in the boat with Jesus**

reprinted with permission by the Rev. Tom Jones.

Holy God,

We remember the disciples of old: in a boat trying to get to the other side. For us the “other side” is where *all* persons have decent homes and there is no more poverty. As it was for the disciples of old, a great storm has arisen.

Dear Jesus, let us hear anew Your words to disciples: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

God, help us help each other keep it straight, that we are in Your territory—that we are dependent on You—that in crises is opportunity for spiritual growth—that in trust of You is the *ending* of fear.

Now, at the beginning of another week, we realize that trust in You is day by day, week by week. And we truly need each other in this venture. Toward that end, right now plant within us the old tune:

“Trust and obey, for there’s *no* other way, than to trust and obey.”

So put it in our minds and hearts that we cannot put it aside, that we

- sing it,
- say it,
- hum it,
- whisper it.

But most of all that we *live* it:

“Trust and obey, for there is *no other way*.”

Christ, keep us in the boat with You.

Amen.



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### **Adapted from the *Book of Common Worship***

Lord and giver of life,  
As by your power  
The apostles anointed the sick,  
And they were healed,  
So come, Creator Spirit,  
Enfold your children in your caring and protective arms.  
Pour out the spirit of grace and supplication on all who desire it  
To bring them healing, peace and freedom to manage their stress.  
Amen

### **Prayer for Healing and Care of Creation and Creatures**

O Loving God: we are stewards of your wonder and mystery: from the amazing sight of a child's hand that can grow into the hand of a surgeon, a carpenter, or a painter, to the grace of giant coconut palm trees that grow from the largest of seeds, to the beauty of butterflies that were once caterpillars, there is wonder all around. With the sight of stars in the sky that long ago went dark, to the depths of our vast oceans filled with frightful and fantastic life forms, to the drive that compels a person to be attracted to another, your world is also filled with mystery. At the center of the wonder and mystery is you, most Holy One, with child-like, mother-like, and father-like qualities. We are in awe of the only thing in the universe that deserves the adjective "awesome."

We appreciate the strength and courage to face daily obstacles and treat them as opportunities; and daily conflicts, treating them as conversations. Give us the wisdom to know when to speak and when to keep silence. Then water the seeds of our work with your life-filling Holy Spirit.

Lead us to sane or even radical answers when it comes to caring for our energy reserves, our beaches, the seas, and the fast disappearing natural land areas. Help us to learn how to care for what you entrusted to us before we get to the horizon of regret. There is plenty on our plate; teach us not to leave your world solely in the hands of politicians, developers, or those who drill, but to keep a holy head about us as we live our lives. We pray for that.

Finally, we pray that you would make us whole in the measure of our own desire to be whole. Heal us through Heaven's medical plan of a measure of forgiveness, a dose of hope, gifts of grace, prayers of confession and lives that are lived by faith. Show us the way in a world that often seems so lost. Today we pray for healing for those who are ill, understanding and acceptance of our brokenness and the brokenness of others, and for new insights to know when to pray, when to act, and when to be still.

Thank you, Great Physician. In the name of the Savior who seeks lost and broken sheep-Jesus Christ-we pray. Amen.

Jeffrey A. Sumner  
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