Prayers & Reflections

Healing

A HEALING PRESENCE

Call to Prayer

Leader
God, you are present to us in those among us who are in need of healing. Conscious that their image reflects our own limitations, we carry them in prayer.

Let us pray: O God, you are the hope of all who suffer. Your son Jesus touched the sick, shared the sorrows of those who mourn, and consoled all who longed for healing of any kind. Give us the strength to do the same. Amen.

Reading
Christ's redemption and saving grace embrace the whole person, especially in his or her illness, suffering, and death. As a witness to its faith, Covenant Health System institution will be a community of respect, love and support to patients or residents and their families as they face the reality of death.

Since a Christian health care institution is a community of healing and compassion, the care offered is not limited to the treatment of a disease or bodily ailment but embraces the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of the human person.

Our service encompasses the full range of spiritual services, including a listening presence; help in dealing with powerlessness, pain, and alienation; and assistance in recognizing and responding to God's will with greater joy and peace.
("The Pastoral and Spiritual Responsibility of Catholic Health Care," Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.)

Response
There are moments when wellness escapes us, moments when pain and suffering are not dim possibilities but all too agonizing realities. At such moments we must open ourselves to healing.

Much we can do for ourselves; and what we can do we must do--healing, no less than illness, is participatory.

But even when we do all we can do, there is, often, still much left to be done.

And so we turn as well to our healers, seeking their skill to aid in our struggle for wellness.

May those whose lives are gripped in the palm of suffering open even now to the Wonder of Life.
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May they let go of the hurt and meet the True Self beyond pain, the Uncarved Block that is our joyous Unity with Holiness.
May they discover through pain the strength to live with grace and humor.
May they discover through doubt and anguish the strength to live with dignity and holiness.
(Adapted from Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro, in *Prayers for Healing*, Maggie Oman, ed., Conari Press, Berkeley, CA, 1997.)

Questions for Reflection
How are you being called to compassionate service? How are you being called to be a listening presence?

Closing Prayer
All Loving God, make us strong enough to enter the vulnerability of the sick and dying. Help us to be a light of strength in their suffering, a hope of redemption, and a consoling presence as we accompany them on their journey. We ask this in your name. Amen.