



IN SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE

RESOURCES TO ASSIST
PASTORAL AND THEOLOGICAL APPROACHES
TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTED DYING



THE GENERAL SYNOD *of*
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Faith, Worship and Ministry
Task Force on Physician Assisted Dying



SIX

PRAYER RESOURCES

In this collection are resources for prayer in addition to those provided already within the Anglican Church of Canada's *Book of Common Prayer*, *Book of Alternative Services*, and *Occasional Celebrations*.

O GOD our Creator and Sustainer, receive our prayers for N. We thank you for the love and companionship we have shared with him/her. Give us grace now to accept the limits of human healing as we commend N. to your merciful care. Strengthen us, we pray, in this time of trial and help us to continue to serve and care for one another; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship – [ELW]*)

O LORD our God, send your Holy Spirit to guide us, that we may make our decisions with love, mercy, and reverence for your gift of life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (*ELW*)

LORD Jesus, in the night before your suffering and death, you struggled with all you were about to encounter. Be with N [and her/his family] in this anxious moment as they face difficult choices about medical treatment, especially those that may involve suffering and pain. Through it all, Lord Jesus, be a strong companion and guide along the way, for your love's sake. (*Ministry With the Sick [MWS]*)

LORD of all wisdom and source of all life, we come before you as we struggle with decisions about life and death that rightly belong to you alone. We confess that we act with uncertainty now. Give us your help, and guide us, merciful God, in your loving concern for N. who lies in grave illness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen. (*ELW*)

GOD our Wisdom: Bless the decisions we have made in hope, in sorrow, and in love; that as we place our whole trust in you, our choices and our actions may be encompassed by your perfecting will; through Jesus Christ who died and rose for us. Amen. (*ELW*)

JESUS, at Gethsemane you toiled with terrifying choices. Be with me now as I struggle with a fearful choice of treatments which promise much discomfort and offer no guarantee of long-term good. Help me know that you will bless my choice to me, and, good Saviour, be my companion on the way. Amen. (*Enriching Our Worship [EOW]*)

O GOD, who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the troubled heart, bring hope and courage to N as she/he waits in uncertainty. Bring the assurance that you will be with her/him in whatever lies ahead. Give her/him courage to endure all that she/he now faces, for you are our refuge and strength. You are God, and we need you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. (*ELW*)

LOVING God, in every age you listen to the cries of lament and the questions about your wisdom from your servants who face suffering and death. In this time of distress and despair, hear the cries and questions of N [and her/his family and friends]. Stand with them in their suffering, that they may face the future with the confidence that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. (*EOW*)

GOD, our Healer and Redeemer, we give thanks for the compassionate care N. has received. Bless these and all health care providers. Give them knowledge, virtue, and patience; and strengthen them in their ministry of healing and comforting; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. (*ELW*)

LITANIES

Let us pray to God, the helper and lover of souls, saying “**Holy One, help us!**”

That we may know your near presence with us, blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

That N. may be released from the bondage of suffering, blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

That our actions may proceed from love, blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

That our best judgments may accord with your will, blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

That you will hold N. and us in the palm of your hand this day, blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

That all our fears may be relieved as we place our trust in you, blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

That as N. labours into new resurrection birth, we may surround him/her with courage,
blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

That although we now grieve, joy may return in the morning, blessed God:

Holy One, help us!

(ELW)

Hear, encourage, and strengthen us as we pray to you, Holy One, saying,
“**We put our trust in you.**”

As the centurion placed his sick servant under Jesus’ authority, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

As Jonah cried out from the belly of the fish, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

As did the three young men in Nebuchadnezzar’s fiery furnace, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

As Gideon laid siege to his enemy with a tiny force, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

As the sons of Zebedee left their father and their boat to follow Jesus, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

As the magi followed the star, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

As did Martha and Mary at the opening of Lazarus’ tomb, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

As Mary Magdalene released her risen Teacher, Holy One:

We put our trust in you.

(ELW)

Let us pray with confidence, anticipating heaven, and let the people respond,
“**Lead your child home.**”

To the gates of Paradise: **Lead your child home.**
To your mercy-seat: **Lead your child home.**
To the kingdom of heaven: **Lead your child home.**
To the crown of glory: **Lead your child home.**
To the land of rest: **Lead your child home.**
To Jordan’s other shore: **Lead your child home.**
To the Holy City, the Bride: **Lead your child home.**
To the safe harbor: **Lead your child home.**
To the font of life: **Lead your child home.**
To the gates of pearl: **Lead your child home.**
To the ladder of angels: **Lead your child home.**
To the land of milk and honey: **Lead your child home.**
To the clouds of glory: **Lead your child home.**
To the refreshing stream: **Lead your child home.**
To the reward of the righteous: **Lead your child home.**
To the dwelling-place of God: **Lead your child home.**
(ELW)