

A Litany for the Homeless

Eternal One, on this day of thanksgiving for families and those friends who are as families to us, we remember especially the homeless and those who do not have dignified places which to call home.

We remember, Holy One, that your Ark of the Covenant had no place to rest, and that this sign of your love wandered from place to place with your people. We remember this day all those that bear your love who still struggle for a home in the wilderness.

Guide them to your eternal blessing.

We recall our spiritual ancestors, the people of Israel, who wandered in the desert forty years seeking rest and shelter. They ran from the oppression of Pharaoh; they searched for rest in your love. This day we pray for all those who flee and seek refuge.

Hold them fast in your unending love.

We remember Moses who sought the land you promised to his people; we think of Naomi and Ruth who shared together their struggle for a home; we recall Mary and Joseph who sought a place of safety and sanctuary, that their child might be born in dignity and in safety. We pray this day for all those whose restlessness we are able to ignore.

Shake us from our comfort and complacency.

We think of those in our communities that have been allowed to have their respect and dignity stripped from them. We think of those who sleep in doorways, in shelters and in parks, those who make us feel comfortable and smug when we see that they are fed from leftovers, the back of a truck, a soup kitchen. We ask, Holy One, that they may soon, in this life, find rest beside still waters and a banquet and cup overflowing.

Embrace us into your community of justice and peace. Amen

(Don Uhryniw)

Another Litany for the Homeless

In this moment of spiritual focus we pray for those who have no shelter: no shelter from loneliness, no shelter from want, no shelter from fear. Hug us into your love. Hug us into your shelter,

In the shelter of each other.

We pray for those who have no shelter: no shelter from prying eyes, no shelter from curious ears, no shelter from the stares of the affluent passersby. Hug us into your love. Hug us into your shelter,

In the shelter of each other.

We pray for those who have no shelter: no shelter from the wind and rain, no shelter from a fading future, no shelter from fractured community. Hug us into your love. Hug us into your shelter,

In the shelter of each other.

We pray for those who have no shelter: no shelter from crowded homes, no shelter in which to grow, no shelter from grasping profits. Hug us into your love. Hug us into your shelter, and fold us all,

Into the shelter of each other. Amen

(Don Uhryniw)