

A Prayer in Troubled Times

Bill Huebsch

In times when the world feels unsettled and the heart carries more sorrow than it knows how to hold, prayer need not be complicated. The most enduring prayers are often simple, honest, and spacious enough to carry both grief and hope.

Holy One,
source of life and breath,
we come before you with heavy hearts.

The world around us feels uncertain and divided.
We see fear where there should be trust,
injustice where there should be fairness,
and suffering where there should be peace.

We know that you carry our sorrow and confusion.
We do not understand the paths nations take
or why cruelty sometimes seems to prevail.

Yet we believe—even if only faintly today—
that your presence moves quietly within this world,
guiding hearts toward compassion
and stirring courage in those who seek justice.

May our hope give comfort to those who are afraid.
May we help protect those who are vulnerable.
May our actions strengthen those who work for peace.
And may our love soften the hearts of those who hold power.

Guard our own hearts to be full of love,
that anger may not turn to hatred
and sorrow may not become despair.

Teach us to remain faithful to what is good:
to speak truth gently,
to act with mercy,
to love our neighbors without fear.



When we cannot see the future clearly,
give us the grace to take the next right step.

And in the quiet places of our souls,
let your peace take root —
like seeds hidden in the dark soil,
waiting patiently for the light. Amen.

A Psalm in Troubled Times

Bill Huebsch

A psalm-like prayer usually holds three movements: lament, trust, and hope. It speaks plainly about suffering, yet it refuses to abandon the belief that God still hears. We pray this together with those who are near us, as a commitment to reach out to those in need.



O Holy One, hear the cry of your people.

The nations tremble and the hearts of many grow fearful.
Violence walks openly in the streets,
and those who hunger for power speak loudly in the councils of the earth.

Neighbors are driven away from their homes,
strangers are rejected with hatred,
and the poor are forgotten in the shadow of wealth.
Truth is clouded, and the voices of anger rise like storm winds.

How long, O Lord?
How long shall fear trouble the earth?

Yet you are the One who formed the mountains
and who laid the deep foundations of the seas.
You know the sorrow of your children
and you do not turn away from their cry.

Be near to us, the frightened and the weary.
Shelter the stranger and defend the vulnerable
Through our loving actions.

Guide the hearts of those who govern,
that they may seek wisdom rather than power.

Keep our own hearts from bitterness, O God.
Do not let anger rule over us,
nor despair take root in our souls.

Teach us to walk in the quiet paths of mercy.
Strengthen our hands for justice
and make our voices gentle but true.

For you are the giver of life,
and your compassion is deeper than the sea.

Though the night may be long
and the earth tremble with trouble,
your light has not been extinguished.

Morning will come.
The fields will bloom again.
And those who hope in you
shall not be abandoned. Amen.

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