

Prayers of Compassion for those who are Homeless

Dear God,

Watch over your children,

Especially those with no homes to return to at the end of long and weary days.

Protect them from all harm and keep them from despair.

Open the hearts and eyes of those of us with blessings to share.

Unite our voices in a call for justice:

So that no man need ever lay down for the night on a wooden park bench because he has no home;

So that no woman need ever tuck her children into the backseat of her car because she has no home;

So that no child need ever wonder, "Where will I feel safe?" because he has no home;

So that all those who wander and all who are in need, find the shelter and the peace they seek.

Remind us, O God, that we cannot rest fully secure in our homes each night until all your children are, at last, home.

Amen.

~ Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Congregation Shaare Emeth

Holy One, Giver of blessings that nurture the earth and feed our bodies and souls,

We offer now our thanks for the abundance that surrounds us:

For the harvest of which we partake,

For the many hands that make light the work of helping our sisters and brothers,

For those who are in need, who gladden our hearts by allowing us to be of use.

With spirits raised by all this, we are so bold as to ask even more:

We pray for more caring hands,

For the equitable sharing of the riches of the harvest,

For more affordable housing,

For more people of faith willing to put their faith into action,

And for our lives to be constant prayers that all may be safe, warm, and loved.

So may it be.

~ Rev. Dr. David Keyes, Eliot Unitarian Chapel

Merciful Heavenly Father,

Make your compassion known to those who are suffering from lack. Remember especially the young, aged, and otherwise vulnerable among them. We pray most of all that they would experience your love toward them and secondly that you be their protection and provision in time of need. Fill their hearts with the warmth of your hope and the light of your love.

Move on us, Lord, to be agents of your provision. Stir the hearts of the more fortunate among us with the knowledge that when we feed and clothe those in need, we are clothing and feeding Jesus (Mt 25:34-46).

Amen.

~ Bill Woodruff, Youth Pastor, Bethalto Church of God