



Sending Prayers

Kansas City Mennonite Church USA Convention

Written by David Augsburg

July 1 **Sending Prayer**

Leader: Friends, disciples, fellow travelers,
The road is hard; the walk, long,
The conversation, sad—loss and lament.

Disciples: ***Come mysterious traveler:
Tell us again the stories
that made miles disappear,***

Leader: Explain again this horror.
Can the cross, somehow, make sense?

Disciples: ***We are so slow to understand,
So blind to the meaning of Christ's suffering
Unable to see what is truly His Glory.***

Leader: Show us again that strand of witness
In the Torah and the prophets that points to Him.

Disciples: ***We are confused, we don't get it.***

Leader: Stay with us this night.

Disciples: ***Be our guest, friend of the Road.*** (Luke 24: 25-27)

Leader: Welcome Christ's teaching into your souls
Embrace His words,
Be embraced by His welcome.

Disciples: ***Let Christ's teaching live in our hearts,
making us rich in true wisdom.***

Leader: Teach and help one another along the right road
Break into singing God's praises
Sing with joy-filled hearts.
Whatever you have to do,
do it in His name, not yours.

Disciples: ***Fill us with gratitude.
Set our hearts glowing,
Smolder in our spirits,***

Burn in our hearts.
Break into inner flame
Burn Spirit burn. (Col 3:16-17; Lu 24:32)

July 2 Sending Prayer

Leader: Who are you, silent stranger?
Odd outsider, rude intruder?
You overtake us,
shadow us as we walk.
You ask the obvious,
seem oblivious.
You don't have a clue

Disciples: ***Haven't you heard what is going on?***
Can't you see our misery, our despair?

Leader: Whoever you are, we don't recognize you,
If we've met before, we can't recall.
But here's our story— We had a dream,
now our dream is dead.
We had such high hopes.
Now they've been smashed to hell.

Disciples: ***Hope, Oh Lord God, we need hope.***
Send us a word, a sign, a hint of hope.

Leader: Now the women have taken over
With impossible stories, upsetting tales.
“Grave robbers, empty tomb,
rumors of angels.”
But no one has found Him,
No one has seen Him

Disciples: ***What are we to believe?***

Leader: “Oh fools,” He says.

Disciples: ***Beg your pardon?***

Leader: “Slow learners, tardy believers.
Have you not read the prophets?”

Disciples: ***“Fools” Fools that we are, teach us.***

Leader: The message of the cross is foolishness
To all involved in this dying world,
God's “foolishness” is wiser than all,
And God's weakness is stronger than all. (1Cor 1: 18, 25)

Disciples: ***Open our eyes to see you,***
Open our hearts to hear you,
Open our wills to follow you.
Amen!

July 3 **Sending Prayer**

Leader: As we near the end of our gathered worship,
 seeing Your reign more clearly,
 seeking to follow You more nearly,
 loving God and loving neighbor more dearly,
 We pray, Risen Christ, breath upon us again,
 As you breathed upon your disciples, (Jn. 20:22)
 Lord Jesus, breathe your Spirit upon us.

Disciples: **We breathe in the pain and suffering of your world.**

Leader: We breathe out the compassion You inspire in us.

Disciples: **We breathe in the fear and despair polluting all around us.**

Leader: We breathe out the hope, the confidence You awaken in us.

Disciples: **We breathe in the sadness of our dying, divided world.**

Leader: We breathe out the breath that brought again our Lord to Life.

Disciples: **We breathe You, Wind of Eternal Love, Breath of God.**

Leader: Now the God of Peace
 Who brought back from the dead
 that great shepherd of the sheep, Our Lord Jesus,
 By the blood of the everlasting agreement,
 Equip you thoroughly for the doing of his will.
 May he effect in you
 everything that pleases him thru Jesus Christ,
 To whom be glory for ever and ever. (Heb 13: 20-21)

Disciples: **The love of God, beyond Father, beyond Mother,
 the grace of Christ our Leader, our Brother,
 the koinonea of the Spirit, our Drive, our Lure,
 be with us as we go to serve, and as we meet again. (2Cor. 13:14)**

Amen and Amen.

July 4 **Sending Prayer**

Leader: Wait, Stop.
 have we not been told, Caesar is Lord?

Disciples: **No! Jesus is Lord!**

Leader: What? Have we not heard, Caesar Lord?

Disciples: **Jesus is Lord!**

Leader: Where then is our allegiance?

Disciples: ***We pledge allegiance to Jesus Christ
 And to God's Reign for which He died;***

*One Spirit-led people the world over
Indivisible, with love and justice for all.*

Leader: Shall we join with his disciples,
Kyrios Iesous Xristos?
Jesus Christ is Lord!

*Disciples: Jesus Christ is Lord!
Jesus Christ is Lord!
Amen and Amen!
(Phil 2:11)*