



## Liturgies for a Dispersed Church

Sharing in rituals, familiar liturgies and blessings in times of uncertainty is what keeps us connected as the body of Christ. In the days and weeks ahead there will be times when we need to re-think how we understand the expression of the fundamental elements of our faith and experience. These liturgies are offered as a starting place for us to navigate these uncharted waters.

# Blessing and Prayers for the Palliative Care Journey

*(prepared by Rev Heather Allison)*

## Life is a Journey

Life is a journey on many roads, but God is always with us.  
Sometimes we lift our faces to the sun, and God is with us.  
But sometimes there is a hard journey through pathways of pain, and fears in dark places.  
But God is with us, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Oh God who travels with us in the shadows,  
We want to move forward in faith, but the way ahead seems so dangerous and we stand in helpless fear before the hiddenness in our future.  
Stand beside us, gentle Christ.

Hear the word to us in Jesus Christ.  
I will never leave you nor forsake you, even to the end of time  
I will walk with you down the pathways of death and lead you to eternal life.

The candle is a sign of the light, warmth and power of the Holy Spirit.  
*(light candle and draw near)*

See the light for the journey and believe that the Spirit always moves ahead of you  
Stretch out your hands and feel the warmth of the flame.  
It is the warmth of the love of God, and our love for you

That love will surround you wherever you go  
Take into yourself the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may be given courage for the next step of the journey  
We are the Body of Christ for you, so you are one with Jesus Christ, who heals us, comforts us, protects us and lifts us up to walk forward again  
Receive this gift, and claim the life that is before you.

*(Adapted from "Echoes of our Journey: liturgies of the people", Dorothy McRae McMahon, Joint Board of Christian Education: Melbourne, Vic, 1993)*

## God of gentleness and strength

God of gentleness and strength, comfort (name) with the great power of your love  
In our grief and confusion, in our doubt and questions, help us find peace.

May we know the certainty of God's love in all that we experience.  
May we be aware that God walks with us and carries us in hard times.



The Uniting Church in Australia  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Let the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, come upon us now,  
and be our companion as we navigate the days ahead.

**Amen.**

**To everything there is a season**

To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven;  
A time to be born, a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
A time to weep and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn and a time to dance;  
A time to keep and a time to cast away.

*(Pause for silent reflection)*

Loving God, we have known the time for planting,  
for laughing and for dancing.  
The joys of happier days can never be taken from us.

Let those joys soften our uncertainty and questions at this time.  
May our acceptance of our human fragility,  
and our assurance of God's faithfulness in this life and beyond, sustain us.

Help us to a place of peace and acceptance,  
and through this, may we bless and sustain others.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen