

Prayers for Healing and Coping

Dementia of any kind often presents a challenge to faith. Watching someone you love virtually disappear, being powerless to bring them back, is truly an agonizing ordeal. Prayer can become a struggle. Even ministers, especially those who have not experienced dementia themselves, may have difficulty praying for people who live with this condition.

Sometimes just listening , meditating, or moving through the daily routine of care, is the best prayer you can offer.

But for those occasions when words are needed, I offer here some prayers that may help. Adapt them to your use, keeping in mind that the true prayer whispers in the silence between and beyond the words. May God bless you!

Barbara Hemphill



An Advent Litany

R: Come, O Lord, and save us.

O Wisdom, O Holy Word of God,
Come and show your people
the way to salvation. **R**
Come, stretch out your mighty hand
to set us free. **R**

God With Us, our hope and our healing,
Come, let nothing keep you from coming
to our aid. **R**
Come and lead to freedom
those imprisoned by dementia. **R**

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice,
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death. **R**
Come and save the creatures you fashioned
from the dust. **R**

*(Adapted from the traditional "O Antiphons,"
which are chanted or sung in the Roman Catholic
and Episcopal liturgy during the Advent season.)*

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Alzheimer's & Dementia Prayers

For those with dementia
and their caregivers

SynapseSite.net

Lake Houston Dementia Caregiver Support



Photo by Jimmy Hemphill

At a New Diagnosis

Ever-present God,
you continually offer fullness of life,
even in the midst of our frailty.
Grant [name] courage to face the reality of *his*
condition
and patience to endure without losing hope.
Bring peace where there is anger,
trust where there is fear.
Help *him* to find moments of joy in the midst
of *his* sadness.
Let *him* know your love through the care and
compassion of others.
Remind *him* of your presence with *him*
at every moment and in all circumstances
of this difficult journey.

(This prayer can also be used for a caregiver when there is a new diagnosis. The only change required is in the fourth line. It would read – “Grant [caregiver] courage to face the reality of [diagnosed person’s] condition.”)

For a Dementia Caregiver

God of compassion, you continually reach out to the weak, the poor, the outcast, the misunderstood.
As ___ cares for ___ in your Name
grant *her* patience to respond with grace
to repetitive questions and irrational behaviors.
Inspire *her* with creativity in designing a safe environment.
Empower *her* to make difficult decisions without self-blame.
Enlighten *her* with wisdom to know the limits of *her* own strength and ability.
Give *her* confidence to advocate on behalf of *her* care partner,
humility to accept help from others,
mercy to forgive *her* own mistakes and others’ failures.
Open *her* heart to your presence and your love.
Above all, bring *her* peace in the storms
and relentless faith.

A Dementia Caregiver’s Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
This is my daily task: to love and care for someone who has dementia, who is losing *her* memory, *her* judgment, *her* ability to function in ordinary ways.
You are the God who promises that even if our father or mother forgets us, you will remember.
We are inscribed on the palms of your hands.
You are the God whose judgments are always true,
and your power is made perfect in our weakness.
As I move through the duties and difficulties of this day,
enlighten my mind and lighten my heart
by your grace.
Awaken within me your wisdom, your courage, your strength, your patience and forgiveness.
Make me worthy of the task
to which you have called me.

Prayers for Healing

God at whose word the lame walk, the blind see,
the deaf hear,
speak your word now to your child with
Alzheimer’s.
Restore agility of body and harmony of mind.
Open the eyes of memory.
Open the ears of reason.
Lift *him* up to rise and walk
in the power of your Name.

Creator God, you designed *this person’s* brain
for inspiration and awareness,
to receive your thoughts,
to sense your presence,
to conceive plans and dream dreams
in accord with your loving purpose
for the world.
Restore *this person’s* brain now to wholeness
and harmony
that it may become an instrument of your will.
And so lead to freedom this prisoner,
this child of yours,
who now sits in darkness
and the shadow of death.



Photo by Jimmy Hemphill