

LITANY IN RESPONSE TO A HURRICANE

Isaiah 40: 1, 27-31:

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Prayers of Intercession:

For those who hunger and thirst for bread, for love, for freedom and justice, for all people in their urgent need and suffering:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who live in worry and anxiety, for those in deep concern for the lives of loved ones, for those who have died, and for us, when death approaches:

Lord, have mercy

For those who seek shelter from the elements, water for their thirst, food for their hunger, and medicine for their ills:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have been uprooted from family and home, from work, and from joy, and who still journey into more uncertainty and upheaval:

Lord, have mercy.

For those called to tend the sick, protect the innocent, rescue the trapped, and comfort the grieving:

Lord, have mercy.

For government leaders at all levels, entrusted with responsibility, to lead, inspire and act for the common good in time of urgent crisis:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who hear the call to volunteer, to house, to feed, to clothe, to heal and to welcome:

Lord, have mercy.

Behold, Lord, your people wait for you. We wait for you in faith and hope. Amen.

Psalm 46:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Prayer:

Gracious God, we pray for everyone affected by Hurricane Harvey, and for all people affected by natural disasters. Be a source of strength and courage during this time of distress and destruction, and a refuge and comfort to all those who suffer. We pray for all those who face flooding and other effects of the storm which are as yet unknown. We pray for rescue and relief workers and for all those who begin on the journey of recovery.

O Source of all consolation, comfort all who feel forsaken with the sure sense of your presence, open our ears to all cries of affliction, and through us provide healing and help. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, that we might pour ourselves out for the victims of disaster so that they, too, will know your generous healing power.

Remain with us, God, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.