

Addressing the Addiction Crisis: A Pilgrimage of Prayer

*God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them (Gen. 1:27)*

*Thank you very much for being part of
this incredible witness.*

*The service is very simple and fairly
brief. If you would like, you can begin
with an invitation for silence and
stillness.*

*We begin with a short opening prayer. There are five
sections with specific petitions. The response to each
petition is Hear our prayer. The people should be invited
to join in the response. There can be a significant pause
after each petition to allow people to add their own silent
prayers.*

The leader begins

God of mercy and God of compassion, we come to you
in humility and in prayer. We ask your blessing on all
those bound by the chains of addiction, for their families
and friends, and for all who care for them. *Pause* Lord in
your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Hope
&
Healing

*in
Berkshire
County*

We pray especially for the people of _____
who struggle today with addiction and substance abuse
disorders. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Sustain those who have begun their journey to
recovery and healing. *Pause* Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Strengthen the resolve of those who recognize their
need and give them the courage to ask for help. *Pause*
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Release them from shame and remind them of the
dignity we all share as your children. *Pause* Lord in
your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give hope to those who have fallen into despair that
they might awaken to the brightness of a new day.
Pause Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who stumble along the way, help them to
see that despite relapse, there is hope for healing. .
Pause Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all who fall into addiction through prescription
drugs and the attempts to alleviate pain. *Pause* Lord in
your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For the young people who suffer from addiction, that they might live to see all their hopes fulfilled. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those in the noon of life who suffer from addiction, that they may find recovery and continue along their path. . *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who find addiction toward the end of life, that they may continue their days in dignity and health. . *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with them not just today but throughout their lives as they carry this burden. . *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Help them to know and feel your love and the love of those around them. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give them strength to share their stories and to help others who suffer from addiction. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the families and friends of those in addiction. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

May those whose relationships have been broken by addiction and betrayal find peace. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be present with all who seek reconciliation so that relationships may be restored and love found again. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Send your holy angels to be with them and give them the sure knowledge that they are not alone in their struggle. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bring solace to all whose loved ones have died from overdose and complications from addiction that they might find hope in the days ahead. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For children who will grow up not knowing their parents and loved ones, and for strength for those who care for them. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the gifts of those who care for those in addiction. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless the nurses, the doctors, and all the treatment professionals in our community. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Thank you for their gifts and for their training. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Thank you for their patience and for their compassion. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the many ways they have improved the lives of those they care for. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless them and their families. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We repent that for too long we have ignored the cries of your children for help. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Forgive us of the times that we have shunned those who suffer from addiction and their families. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Forgive us when we pushed them to the margins of society. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Forgive us we have too often treated addiction as a crime and not sought to help those in need. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Turn our hearts to see addiction as an opportunity to show your compassion to a broken world. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people in our communities especially vulnerable to addiction. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have no place to call home. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For veterans who struggle with the scars of war that they might find peace. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who struggle with mental illness that they might receive the best treatment for their illness. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities that they might be places of hope, healing, and justice. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to see addiction as an affliction and an illness to be treated. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Help us build up our communities so that people can choose dignity and work over despair and fleeting escape. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be present with those responsible for maintaining our laws that they might serve justice and bring hope to the people they serve. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless our first responders who work each day to bring healing in the moments of crisis. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless our legislators and political leaders that they might help us build a society of hope. *Pause* Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Most especially, we pray for all we know in our own lives who have been touched by addiction.

Longer pause to allow people to add their own prayers.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The leader continues

O God, the source of light and life, we ask your blessing on us gathered here today. Help us to dedicate ourselves to the work of bringing your compassion and healing to all those in need and especially to those in addiction in this community and around our county. Give us the courage to help them seek out the treatment they need to break the chains that bind them. Give us eyes to see beyond shame to see our friends and neighbors as your beloved children. We ask you to be present with us and give us your gifts of hope and healing.