

Prayers. Ray Courtnage (member of Immanuel Presbyterian Church) has asked that we keep him in our prayers. He's back home from his first round of cancer treatments at the Mayo Clinic, and is experiencing some bad side effects (including the loss of his voice). If he doesn't begin to feel better, he believes that he'll have to cancel his next round of treatments in Rochester. In Ray's words, his "courage and strength are getting weaker." Healing prayers for all those who are going through various treatments for cancer and other diseases who may also be experiencing uncomfortable and debilitating side effects.

Almighty and Eternal God, whose goodness and grace overflowed when You raised Jesus from the dead, let Your goodness and grace continue to flow upon Your people. Let the light of Jesus Christ shine bright in the darkness to bring joy and warmth. Help those whose strength is failing through ill health, whose spirits are flagging through depression, whose determination is being sapped through addiction. Lord God, roll away the stone that they might better see the path stretching out before them, a path unused except for Your footprints etched in the morning dew. In the light and the glory of the resurrection, we pray for our world in areas of violence and hostility; for lands where famine and disease are rife; places where lamenting cries for justice and peace continue; those today who struggle to find joy in the resurrection story. We remember the nearest and dearest to our own hearts, and those known only to You, confident that You hear the earnest prayers of every heart. We offer these prayers to You Lord God, always mindful of the great company who compass around You, the ransomed and the redeemed of all the ages. As once they inspired us by their living so may they continue so to do till the day of our own homecoming to You through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.
[adapted prayer heard on Easter morning in Scotland, April 8, 2012]