

Dear God,

Thank you for being here with us today. Even though we can't see you, we feel your presence, especially here in this, our treasured shelter-house of prayer.

We enjoy witnessing your presence in the beauty of the world around us, in the landscapes of Niagara, in the blue skies and in the fertile earth. We feel your presence in the grace we share with those we love and in all of the good things that make us contented with our lives. However, all people who have known great sorrow, known great loss, confusion, heartache and fear know that it is then that we feel you standing beside us and supporting us most. It is then that we most feel your love.

Please send your love to all those who are currently suffering the violence and hostility of war at this difficult time. We ask you to be with the dying children and the grieving parents, to be with all those who are the innocent collateral damage of the conflict we currently are witnessing in the Middle East. Please walk beside them, God.

We also ask your support for those who are victims of conflict throughout the world: in Syria, and the Sudan and, especially, in the Ukraine.

We look for your support for the victims of domestic violence and human trafficking here at home and we ask you to be with the homeless in our towns and cities. We also ask you to be with those who are ill; please relieve their suffering and grant them peace. We ask you to support their caregivers, easing their grief and giving them strength to bear their burden.

As we go out our church door into a new week, we ask you to go out into the world with us. Show us how to love our neighbour and to be kind to those who aren't kind in return. Show us how to be compassionate and to seek out those who need that compassion.

Show us how to walk beside the distressed, giving them the support Jesus once provided to his disciples on the way to Emmaus.

Amen

V. Lowenberger