

Prayers for Dementia Awareness Sunday/Week

Familiar Psalms such as Psalm 23 and a portion of Psalm 139 may be read also.

These first three prayers/reflections are written by Bruce Bane who is diagnosed with a type of dementia called "Frontotemporal Dementia (recently renamed Frontotemporal Degeneration) (FTD). Bruce writes a blog about his experience <http://brucebane.wordpress.com/>

A Prayer For Today

God of all times and all possibilities,
Help me let go of the past
Lay aside all that could have been,
All that might have been, if only...
All of the hopes and dreams that never were
Instead, help me embrace the good that was,
That which touched my life with
Beauty, Wonder, Joy, Peace, Discovery, Faith, Life
God of all times and all possibilities,
Help me re-imagine the future
Setting aside all that should be, all that won't be
And expectations that will never be met
Instead, help me embrace the goals I can meet,
To challenge myself when it's appropriate,
And to be at peace with that which will never be
God of all times and all possibilities,
Help me be alive to the present, to this moment
Help me see that which is around me and embrace it
Help me see the realistic possibilities of today;
To reach for them
And when I can do these things maybe I will experience
The best of yesterday, the promises of tomorrow
And the beauty You place in each and every moment
God of all times, God of all possibilities,
I offer You all I am; past, present, and future
For now I see your presence in all of my life
So all I ask is that You help me to always remember
That I am not alone, no matter the circumstance of my life
That whatever my situation in life, I am useful to You
Because You are the God of love, acceptance, and forgiveness
You are the God of redemption and reconciliation
And for that I am truly thankful
Amen.

To Know Myself as God Knows Me

Oh God, I am losing myself to this disease
Slowly, but surely dementia eats away at me
Little by little it takes away what makes me who I am
But You, merciful God, continue to know me fully
Dementia can't change who I am in Your eyes
To You I am the sum of all I have been and all I will be
And so You celebrate all of me and all of my life
You wrap all of who I am in love, acceptance, and forgiveness
So God, I ask You to help me step outside my moments of loss and grief
Help me know myself as You know me
Help me see that nothing of me is lost to You
Help me celebrate with You
Help me embrace your gifts of love, acceptance, and forgiveness
And help me know that it doesn't matter how devastating dementia is
You will always and forever know me fully and love me deeply
For this I give you thanks and praise, God of my life.

Merciful God

As I face this [new] year
My journey with dementia continues
As I do my best to walk the path set before me
Please guide my feet along the way
Guide my thinking and relating
See me through the rough patches
And help me enjoy the good times that come
God of all of living
Remind me of your constant presence when I feel alone
Open my eyes to those who show their care and support
And give me to help others as I am able
God of compassion
Soothe my anxiety
Help me sort out my confusion
Comfort my sadness
Hold me in my fear
And carry me when I can go no further
Amen

Based on Psalm 23, From 'Reflections of Hope - for people living with dementia' by
Claire Craig and Rosemary Hurlley, published by CWR:

Dear Lord
Living with dementia feels so difficult, so frightening at times.
I feel as though I am stepping into the unknown.
Lord, I ask that You will be my Shepherd,
That You will guide me through this time and that I will
Learn to put my trust, my faith in You.
I thank You for all the times that You have been there in the past.

The times when You have supported me, when You have defended me.
I ask You now that You would watch over me,
as the Shepherd who protects His flock. Amen.

Adapted from "Prayers of Our Hearts" © 1991 Vienna Cobb Anderson.
Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/Prayers/Protestant/Aging/Prayer-For-Those-With-Dementia.aspx#mLkK5yAvBczzvm80.99> :

Prayer for those living with Dementia

Pour your grace, O loving God,
upon all living with dementia.
It is frustrating
not to find a word;
it is fearful
to lose one's memories.
Bless them with patience,
a loving and supporting family,
and days of hope and accomplishment.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

Fr Timothy Menezes for the Pastoral Care Project:

Prayer for those living with Dementia

Father of all goodness,
Your Son brought healing of mind and body
To show that your Kingdom is here,
in our hour of need, we look to you,
we seek to understand your purpose.
Through Joseph, the faithful and honourable husband of Mary,
You show us care and compassion in adversity,
You give us a model of generosity and care.
We pray for those whose lives we share
And who live with the knowledge of weakness,
Whose memory now fades,
Whose enjoyment of life's story is changing.
Make us aware of the needs of others,
Of the dignity of life at every stage
Of the collective memory that we own.
Bless those who care for the sick,
Who share the journey.
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
In Your good time.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

God of Love

God of loving relations
Past, present, future and eternal,
May your holiness
be found through our lives,
in this world and beyond.
May we be nurtured and cared for,
as we care for and nurture others.
Heal us from wrong while
we stop wronging others.
And may we not be tempted
away from your love.
We commit ourselves
to your reign, your priorities
and your glory.
Now and forever.
Amen.

Martyn Goss 2012



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