

## Prayer of Gratitude and Longing

God of Justice and Love,  
 We pause a moment to call to mind  
 That we are in your presence.  
 We pause to thank you  
 For the many blessings you offer to us:  
 The sun,  
 The spring,  
 The smile and greeting of a neighbor,  
 The love of family and friends,  
 The community we are to one another.



We pause to remember that we live in a world  
 Which is not yet as you would have it  
 Despite all our advances of culture and technology.

We still place profit and gain before  
 People and our environment.  
 We wage war on our sisters and brothers,  
 Whether it takes the form of sanctions or suicide bombings.  
 Men and women continue to live without the most basic necessities:  
 Shelter,  
 Food,  
 The opportunity to work,  
 The most basic of health care.

To live with eyes open is to see a world  
 Which groans under the burden of oppression.  
 And yet, we pause to remind ourselves  
 That hope lives – that hope has always shined  
 Through the cracks of our broken world

We pray that you grant us the grace to be ministers of this hope,  
 That we may shine in your service,  
 That we may be yeast to a world in need of lifting,  
 Agents of empowerment to those who feel they have none.

We pray that our world will awake from blindness, ignorance, and apathy,  
 And reawaken with new vision, compassion, and action.  
 We pray that we may be instruments to your will.  
 That through our work the world may know you,  
 Your power, and most importantly, your love. Amen.

– By Jane Deren, Ph.D.

