



“The Work of the People”
Material to Use in Recognition: Harvey, One Year Later

Please feel free to adapt to suit your context.
Please email ghan@imgh.org if you use this material.

Unison Prayer

Loving God (or begin as is your custom)...

We give thanks for the gift of this day, and for the days that have passed since the waters of the storm named “Harvey” came upon our shores one year ago. There have been days of hope and days of despair. There have been moments of light and moments of darkness. We are thankful for your protection and for your compassion. We give thanks that you have cared for us so that we can care for others.

These days have not been easy for so many. We pray for those for whom Harvey has made life more difficult, for lives where inequalities were worsened, for lives of just “getting by” made more trying. We pray for those who, while they did not die in the days of Harvey, have died in the months after Harvey from broken bodies and broken spirits. May they rest in you.

Continue to open our hearts to listen to each other, to offer hospitality to friends in need, to offer shelter to the stranger in our midst, to be good stewards of the world in which we live. Give us rest from the long work of recovery; strengthen us so we can be strong for others. Help us to remember to be joyous in times of joy; lift us when our spirits fail. More than anything, give us a sure sign of your presence; let our faith renew us, our faith in you and our faith in each other.

AMEN (or conclude as is your custom).

Responsive Prayer

Let us focus now to our being a many-faceted community that is united in prayer. Across faiths and races, across time and space, we join together.

Let us pray (*or begin as is your custom*):

ONE: Holy One, in whom we place our faith and find our hope....

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

ONE: We give thanks for the courage to persist in the days and months following the storm named Harvey. We pray for the courage and wisdom to continue our many roads to recovery. Oh, Lord....

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

ONE: We pray for the strength to continue being a community of care, to help the friend in need and the stranger in our midst. Oh, Lord....

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

ONE: We offer our prayers for the unknown and the forgotten, for those for whom rebuilding is still needed, for those who have fallen through the cracks of recovery. Oh, Lord...

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

ONE: We pray for those beyond our circles of familiarity, for communities that are not of our neighborhoods, or of our class, or of our ethnicity. We pray that we may remember our connectedness as one people of God. O, Lord...

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

ONE: We pray that we may be good stewards and caretakers of the world in which we live, to use its resources carefully. We pray for the insight and resolve to find new ways to live so that this planet will be sustained. O Lord...

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

ONE: We pray in thanksgiving for the simple gifts of life, of a new day, for every opportunity to see you in each other and the world around us, for you have created us and our world to be enjoyed and cherished. O, Lord...

ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

ONE: And finally, we pray for our future. We pray that our future as a people, as a city, as a region, be filled with the faith that you are good, and that we have the capacity to reflect your goodness, your compassion, your justice, your courage, to build a solid foundation for all your people. To this all we say,

ALL: AMEN (or conclude as is your custom)