

Prayer for Those Impacted by Cancer

Almighty God, we come with feelings of concern and alarm. So many have been diagnosed with cancer. Some of those diagnoses are quite treatable. Some are more terminal. We feel helpless and vulnerable.

Each patient must face endless probes and tests and interventions. There is the waiting for results, the questions about where “the problem” is centred. What are the ways it can be treated? At what cost in terms of pain and uncertainty?

We offer prayers for all who are touched by this condition: the patient who feels their body has betrayed them; the care-givers who assume the tasks of keeping schedules, doing the driving, helping oversee the medications, being there in times of discomfort and depression and death. They take on tasks they once never thought possible. We pray for the doctors, nurses, medical technicians who stand ready to help move us along the journey. We are grateful, also, for those who understand alternative ways of bringing their skills to bear.

As people of faith offer their prayers, their support, their concern – we appreciate their outreach. The caring and compassion shown by all whose lives impact ours become wonderful gifts.

Our prayers are for understanding and healing. How has cancer become so prevalent in our society? Are we not a people who have tried to live responsible lives? Can we ever imagine the myriad of different locations in our bodies where problems can be found?

Healing means helping us face the process we have begun. Healing means helping us live as positively as we can, always appreciating what there is of beauty and hope and promise. Healing means nurturing our spirits so that we find strength for what must be faced.

Teach us how to live gratefully and graciously, ever mindful that we are not alone, that your Spirit accompanies us in this life and through the next.

(by Joyce Sasse)