God of Presence, God of Courage

There have been many times this week when you have been with us

and we didn’t even think about it;

In the midst of the rubble of our lives we couldn’t quite see where you were.

But today we come to remember your presence.

Today we come to seek your courage.

Now be with this tiny group of people of prayer as they await their new pastor.

Let their waiting be marked by faith, by courage, by honor and by love.

Assure them of the wealth they have in you.

Assure them of the light of Christ you place in them.

God of Presence, God of Courage

We give you thanks for the new year of life you are giving to Duke.

When he is faced with decisions, give him wisdom.

When he is faced with confusion, give him understanding.

When he is faced with fear, give him courage.

Let you angels travel with him from day to day and your Spirit place wonder in his soul.

God of Presence, God of Courage

We are baffled by those who chose not to help Khaseen.

We are troubled that our own courage fails us.

Help us to practice courage in the small things of life so that when the moment comes, when you call us to be your hands and your feet and your voice we will be able to stand in justice and in love for strangers and for friends.

God of Presence, God of Courage

We are humbled by the courage of those who left home and country;

By those who fled in the dark of night;

By those who live each day without welcome or kindness

By those separated from children and children from parents

By those who worship without a building and gather without a Bible

Shake loose the nations on their behalf.

Rattle the hearts of leaders that your love may fall upon those in need like flour through a sieve.

God of Presence, God of Courage

We look to the day when cancer is no more, when you shake loose the knowledge needed to prevent and to cure, to heal and to set right.

Until that day comes fill with courage Rob, Kevin, Barbara and Kaden.

Let them know from day to day that you are with them, that you love them and that your face is turned toward their every need.

God of Presence, God of Courage

We thank you for Jessann’s life. We thank you for giving her a bright mind and a clear voice. Now give her the courage to stand for your justice and your love in her school. Let your light shine in her that others might see you and not be afraid.

God of Presence, God of Courage

As we wait for you to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry lands and the nations, we pray together as you taught us to pray…

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**

**Amen**

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