

**Hurricane Prayer and Action Vigil
September 11, 2017**

Gathering Prayer

Something inside, so strong, pulls us, calls us:

Holy God, may we know your presence in the midst of tragedy.

Something terrible, unthinkable, has happened,

Shattering our sense of safety and security.

Something inside, so strong, steadies us, calms us;

A quiet confidence that we will make it through.

Even in the midst of crisis there is a growing faith that we are not alone;

A sense of God's present love and action.

Something inside, so strong, calls us to this place:

Something inside, so strong, causes us to sing and pray -

O God, come to our aid.

Hear our voice when we cry to you. Amen.

Prayer of Jonah

Adapted from The Book of Jonah

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said:

In my distress I called to the Lord,
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.

I was hurled into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;

waves and breakers
swept over me.

I said, 'I have been banished
from your sight;

yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.'

The engulfing waters threatened me,
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, Lord my God,
brought my life up from the pit.

"When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, Lord,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

"Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God's love for them.

But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'"

“Oh God, We’ve Prayed in Wind and Rain”
(Sung to the tune of *Amazing Grace*. Words by
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette).

O God, we’ve prayed in wind and rain
and now we pray once more
For those who felt the hurricane
and heard the waters roar.

We pray for those who watched the storm
destroy the life they knew,
Who wait in shelters, tired and worn,
and wonder what to do.

We thank you, God, for acts of love
not bound by race or creed,
For hands that reach across the flood
to all who are in need.

We pray for others far away
who’ve seen destruction, too;
We look beyond ourselves, for they
are also loved by you.

We pray that leaders of our land
will heed creation’s cry,
And bravely care and take a stand
for earth and sea and sky.

Where rains flood cities, homes and towns
may we go out to be
A witness that your love abounds
in each community.

Prayers of the People

**O God of promises, you remind us again and again that
you are present with your people. When our hearts are
broken, You are here.**

When we worry about our country and our future,

You are here

Where anyone is hungry, or thirsty,

You are here

When we feel like strangers, and wonder if anyone will
welcome us,

You are here

Where anyone is sick, or in need of care and company,

You are here

When people are in prison,

You are here

When anyone needs clothing,

You are here

**You, O God, are here with us when we suffer. Empower us
to be with others as they suffer. Help those who feel
hopeless, or who are filled with fear. Help us to remember
that You are here, God, in the midst of all that we are going
through. Help us remember that you are a God of love, and
you love us. Amen.**

From Psalm 40

"I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God."

+

We worship God in sanctuaries, in beautiful, holy spaces. But Christ has told us that if we want to find him in this world, we will seek out the lost, the least of his brothers and sisters— those who are hungry, thirsty, sick, in prison, naked and estranged. May we go forth this day with eyes open to seeing Christ in our world, and may we know God's love by loving one another. May we love, not just in word and speech, but in truth and action.

+

"Christ Has No Body"
Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
no hands but yours; no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ
must look out on the world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.

+

Church World Service Clean Up Buckets consist of:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs non surgical latex gloves
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent
- **All cleaning items must be new – all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.**

How many buckets can we fill? Please ask family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to help gather as many of these items as possible for dedication and donation to Church World Service for use in the affected areas. The United Church of Christ is offering matching grants of up to \$250 per church to expand the impact of this much-needed kits. We'll be collecting these times through Oct 10 and delivering completed buckets on a rolling basis to the regional depot on a rolling basis.