

### **Prayers for Peace, Hope and Justice**

Yesterday I attended a breast cancer awareness event. I went with a friend whose mother is living with stage 4 cancer. Listening to the survivors share their stories was deeply moving. It reminded me of the strength that lives within us as human beings.

And yet, even with all that strength, there are battles we cannot win — battles that lie beyond our control.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord,

Cancer is a horrible disease. It enters our bodies and our lives without asking, and it changes everything. We pray for all who are living with cancer today. Be with them in their pain, in their fear, and in the long nights of worry. Hear their prayers, Lord, even the ones they cannot put into words. Be close to them in their times of suffering and despair and give them moments of peace and rest.

We pray for the families and friends who stand beside them. For those who support, who sit in waiting rooms, who have to witness a loved one suffer and carry that burden quietly. Give them strength when they feel they have none left and give them people who will carry them too.

Help us, Lord, to be wise with the bodies you have given us. Help us not to look away out of fear or busyness, but to make use of the prevention and care that exist — to go for our regular check-ups, and by doing so, encourage those around us to do the same.

We know that not everyone has the same access to screening and treatment. We pray for those who are diagnosed too late because care was too far, too expensive, or simply not there. Move those with power and resources to make good care possible for all.

We thank you for the doctors, nurses and carers who support people who are suffering, every single day. Bless their hands, their patience and their compassion, and sustain them when the work is heavy.

And we thank you for the progress that has been made in fighting cancer — for the researchers, for every advancement, for every new treatment that brings hope where once there was none.

Lord, we come back to where we began. We are reminded of the strength you have placed within us, and we are also reminded of how much lies beyond our control. Where we cannot win the battle, help us to let go and trust that we are held by you. Give peace to those who are suffering, hope to those who are waiting, and a hunger for justice to all of us, so that care and dignity reach everyone who needs them.

In a moment of silence, we bring before you the names of those we carry in our hearts today.