

## *Prayer for the Journey*

*Leader: Our lives are a journey, and the road goes ever on. It's a road that began with our birth, that winds its way through meadows and mountains, that crosses rivers and canyons.*

**PEOPLE:** For the bread that has sustained us on our journey, and for the guides who have led us, we offer thanks and praise, O God.

*Leader: We pray for those who do not have the strength to travel on.*

**PEOPLE:** We pray for those whose path seems continually to wind back upon itself, spiraling through poverty, pain, and prison of soul or mind or body.

*Leader: In the landscape of your abounding love, we know there are paths leading into tomorrows yet unfathomed. There are days ahead when all your children shall walk upon a green and fruitful earth.*

**PEOPLE:** Help us, O God, to shape such a world.

*Leader: Let our paths not be narrow and self-preoccupied and, as we journey on, keep us mindful that we do not walk alone;*

**PEOPLE:** That you are present in our midst;

*Leader: That in Jesus of Nazareth you came to share*

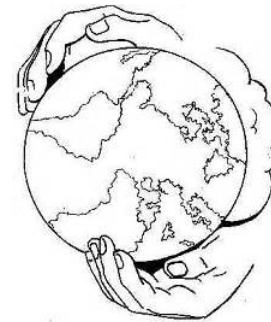
*our common lot;*

**PEOPLE:** That you walk beside us and dance ahead of us into the future.

*Leader: Deliver us, we pray, from the mire of grudges and regrets. We yearn to break away from all that makes us less than the people you have created us to be. We long to be enfolded in your arms of mercy and acceptance.*

**PEOPLE:** All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, whose story brings life to a dying world, hope to a despairing people, and justice and love to a realm of strife.

**ALL:** Hear us, O God, as we commit ourselves anew to discipleship in the name of the One whom we proclaim now and every day as the Savior of the world. Amen.



From Duck, Ruth, ed. *Bread for the Journey: Resources for Worship*  
The Pilgrim Press, 1982, pg. 72.