

Litany for Mental Health Sunday

Written by Rev. Colin Jones, Co-Pastor of Advent United Church of Christ in Columbus Ohio

Let us pray to the God of our Ancestors, who is the Creator of all Life: Eternal Divine Spirit, we pray for the Church that you created through you're Son, Jesus Christ; that it may provide an extravagant welcome and serve those who live with a mental illness, particularly in minority communities.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Guide us, the citizens and leaders of this land, this state and this city ... that we may unite to provide for and protect the poor, the homeless and those who suffer in mind, body and spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Forgive us as a community, when we knowingly or unknowingly ridicule, look in disgust, neglect or discriminate against those who are mentally ill.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Comfort and relieve those who are troubled in mind and spirit. Bring them hope, peace and the consolation of a loving community.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant patience and courage to the families and friends of those who are ill. Increase their perseverance as they face challenges to recovery for their loved one.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Protect and defend those living with mental illness from exploitation, addictions and abuse.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Oh Lord, increase our awareness, compassion, and sensitivity so that we can embrace our brothers and sisters who wrestle with Mental Illness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Because of their intense pain, and at times, their lack of perceived options, we commend to your mercy and defense all who are contemplating suicide today, right now. Bring someone or something to intervene.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the families who have lost a loved one to mental illness, bring them comfort in trusting that your grace accepts their loved one, despite the event that brought them into your loving arms.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Deep within the souls of black and brown people that are across the diaspora, empower us to speak up for those who do not have a voice; save us from making peace with the injustices in the social systems that have failed them.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Guide those who do research for the prevention and treatment of mental illnesses; uphold them with your compassion and diligence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal Spirit of Love, Giver of life and health, we trust that in your time and way, you will dispel all darkness with your light, all confusion with your order, all fear with your peace. Through Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.