

## HOLY GROUND

You meet us in the place we least expect, O God, a path of least resistance, locker room or cubicle, freeway, burning bush, or even church. You have found us unprepared, unrepentant, unrelieved. Even as we think we find ourselves, we realize that we are not our own to find, but yours. Speak to us. Help us understand.

We gather as your expectant people, feet bare upon the earth, eyes turned aside in awe and no small bit of shame, hearts uneasy as we await encouragement, a word of solace or of hope. We gather, filled with stories and promises, halfway dreams of anxious possibility, prayers of wind and fire. In this hour, all our longings tremble in the silence that surrounds us. It is holy ground, this place that you have chosen.

We dare to intercede on behalf of those whose lives we neither envy nor revere: the addicted, the homeless, the hungry, the poor; the imprisoned, the detained, the beaten-down and beaten-up; those who bear the burdens of their illness so that others will not know; those who cannot face the day, who have no friends, whose relationships abuse, who struggle without joy. Bind up these brokenhearted. Empower us to offer of ourselves to them.

Accept our gratitude and confidence that you have changed our lives and made us instruments of healing and restoration. You grant us gifts we seek to use; strengthen our will. You show us need for liberation and for peace; encourage our resolve. We ask your blessing on this good earth and on all who call upon your name, as together with your church around the world we find purpose to fulfill your call.

O God, you raise creation anew with your abiding love. You redeem us from death in the waters of baptism; you sustain us with your Spirit in the community of faith; you create in us a new beginning, and a sense of hope. In the name of Jesus your resurrected Son and our eternal Lord we pray. Amen.

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From a pastoral prayer offered at The Woodlands Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The Woodlands, Texas, 2005.

*Winged Words: Prayers For Common Worship & Common Life*

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