



CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

## An Ecumenical Litany for Wholeness

Adapted by All Belong, from Litany authored by Rev. Chipps, revised by Ginny Thornburg

**Leader:** Let us pray for all of God's people. For people who think they are worthless and beyond your love and for people who think they don't need your love.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us accept your love.

**Leader:** For the people who learn slowly, for people who learn in different ways, and for people who learn quickly and easily but often choose ignorance.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us grow in your wisdom.

**Leader:** For people who feel isolated by their disabilities and for people who contribute to that sense of isolation.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy change our lives.

**Leader:** For people who have chronic illness for which there is no known cure or relief, and for people who live in holy fear of developing a chronic illness.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us and heal us.

**Leader:** For families, friends, and caregivers who serve people with disabilities and for those who feel awkward in their presence.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us see each other with your eyes

**Leader:** For all who are blind and cannot see and for all who can see but are blind to the people around them.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us touch each other.

**Leader:** For the people who are deaf and cannot hear and for those who can hear but ignore the cries of others.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us respond to each other.

**Leader:** For people who move slowly because of an accident, illness or disability and for those who move too fast to be aware of the world in which they live.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us work together.

**Leader:** For people who are troubled in mind and spirit and for those too proud to admit having a problem.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy help us rely on each other.

**Leader:** For all people in your creation that we may learn to respect each other and learn how to live together in peace.

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy bind us together.

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** Lord God, Heavenly Father, though we cannot comprehend the magnitude or magnificence of Your Creation, we can enjoy its beauty, its bounty, and its blessings. We thank you for the gift of life and everything in your Creation that enriches life, especially the forgiveness of sin and the gift of new life we have through your Son.

**Group A:** We confess that we often fail to see the beauty and the wisdom of your creating hand in persons whose gifts and challenges are different from ours. We are slow to recognize our own disabilities and our inability to know all things or do all things.

**Group B:** Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of understanding and insensitivity. Help us realize that we often disable rather than support people with our pity as well as our pride, our ignorance as well as our willful neglect. We confess that we are neither a “whole” nor a “holy” people.

**Leader:** When a person requires help, protection, and care...

**Group A:** Open our penitent hearts to their hurting hearts.

**Leader:** As the world disparages those of different gifts...

**Group B:** Help us attribute proper worth to all whom You have created and Christ has redeemed.

**Leader:** As the “family of God” includes people with varied abilities...

**Group A:** Help us see beyond surface differences and help us to value the gifts all your children share.

**Leader:** As we accept persons with varied abilities as an integral part of the Christian community and welcome them into our neighborhoods, schools, and churches...

**Group B:** We affirm our belief in the worth of all persons, look to Your Son for healing, and pledge ourselves to minister in love and concern with all people of all abilities.

**All:** We praise You, dear Father, for the gift of individuality, for making each of us the kind of person we are. Help us to accept ourselves and one another as brothers and sisters in Christ regardless of our abilities. Enable us to love one another with Your own kind of love. Hear our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.