

PEOPLE OF HOPE

PRAYER

God of mercy,
You created each of us for some definite service,
And have given us work you've given to no one else.

Inspired by the stories of others,
you invite us to make stories of our own,
by being angels of peace,
and ambassadors of hope,
recalling that we are all neighbors
sharing a common home.

Reassure us, then,
that love may be found in every place,
even if we need to place it there first.
Soften our hardened hearts,
that we may mend hearts that are broken.
Give us courage to light candles,
instead of cursing the darkness.
And when tempted to look away,
let us see your reflection in others' faces,
that they might see you reflected in ours.

Strengthen us through your Holy Spirit
to heal a hurting world
by reaching out, and lifting up;
by binding wounds, and washing feet;
by planting seeds, and breaking bread.

Without a vision, O God,
your people perish.
Help us, then, to imagine a civilization,
resting secure on pillars of love and care.
And then give us the grace to build.

We ask all this through Jesus, our hope. Amen.

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