

You Are There

God of grace and peace,

after the violent wind subsides,
after the trembling earth grows still,
after the raging fire dies down,

when words seem empty,
when lives are shattered,
when hearts are broken,

you are there ...

in the cry of an anguished parent,
in the love of the suffering servant,
in sighs too deep for words.

Help us to be there too ...

after the roads reopen,
after the spotlight shifts,
after the attention fades,

still sharing the good news:

the love that lives in humble service,
the peace that passes understanding,
the life that death cannot destroy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Prayer by David Gambrell, Associate for Worship,
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A Prayer for Rescue, Recovery and Relief workers

God our help and hope when waters rise,
you brought Israel safely through the sea.
Sustain all those who seek to save others,
so that they may repair the ruined cities,
raise up the former devastations,
and be the restorers of streets to live in;
through Jesus Christ, our eternal savior.

(based on Isaiah 58, 61)

Prayers by the Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA)

Prayer in a Time of Disaster

Holy One, you are our comfort and strength
in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos.
Surround us now with your grace and peace
through storm or earthquake, fire or flood.

By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain
those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with
the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ,
our rock and redeemer.

A Prayer in a Time of Distress

Almighty and everlasting God, You are strength to
those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve.
Let the prayers of your children who are in trouble rise
to you.

Hear our prayer.

We claim your promises of wholeness as we pray for
those who are ill or are suffering loss and long for
your healing touch.

Hear our prayer.

Make the weak strong, the sick healthy, the broken
whole, and confirm those who serve them as agents
of your love.

Hear our prayer.

To everyone in distress, grant mercy, grant relief,
grant refreshment.

Hear our prayer.

As we begin to rebuild, we commend our
neighborhoods to your care. Give us strength of
purpose and concern for others, that we may create a
community where your will may be done.

Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you watch our ways, and weave
out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and
grace.

Hear our prayer.

Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy
with a sense of your present love,
and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief,
may they find you and be comforted;

Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and
rules this world with you. Amen.