

O, God, we gather here together today, as people from many different communities. We come before You, remembering all those persons who have been touched by mental illnesses. We give thanks for those persons who have given their time and talents to do what they are able to help those who are dealing with mental illness in their lives, and in the lives of their families and friends. We give thanks for the improvement in medications and treatment programs that have enabled persons with mental illness to lead productive lives. We pray that our society would do everything possible to ensure that early diagnosis and treatment becomes standard procedure. We pray that stigma be removed, so that persons and their families would ask for the appropriate help as soon as symptoms appear. Guide each one of us, as we endeavor to bring help and hope to those families and individuals affected by mental illness.

The faith community says to those people who suffer from the symptoms of mental illness and to their families in unison:

We will walk with you. And God walks with you. You will not go through this alone.