Call to Worship

God our Creator, you give breath to each person you made.
You treasure the gifts of each unique person.
But when life becomes a burden rather than a gift,
God of life, hold us.
When darkness strangles the will to live, when days become endless nights,
God of light, shine on us.
When no one seems to understand, when we walk and wait alone,
God of love, embrace us with your presence.
Where there is despair, bring hope; where there is shame, give value and worth;
where there is emptiness, bring fulfillment; where there is suffering in mind and body, bring healing.
God of hope, hear our prayer for life.
*Cindy Holtrop, Pathways to Promise (Used with permission.)*

Litany for Suicide Prevention Week

God, we celebrate the gift of life for each person. We commit to nurturing the well-being of each person here. We know for some, life is a burden filled with suffering.
Help us to talk about our fears, our anger, and our despair with someone we trust.
We celebrate that life has purpose and meaning. For some, purpose and meaning are like dry bones, dead and lifeless.
Remind us that You know us by name. You know our place and purpose in this world.
We are created to live in community. Some feel alone, unloved and disconnected.
Give us courage to reach out with love to someone who needs us. May we be Your presence with them. Teach us to be gentle and non-judgmental.
We remember those who ended their life before it was time.
Comfort those who grieve and bring healing.
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