Hard Roads to Travel

**Prayers in Hard Times**

**A Psalm Prayer**

Holy God, giver of peace:  
I do not ask to know what human wisdom cannot fathom.  
All the unanswered questions of my life,

all its darkness and perplexing light.  
I lay my trust upon your vast maternal heart.  
I rest in your care as peacefully as an infant

asleep within strong paternal arms.  
Succor all the earth’s anxious children with

the unending provision of your peace.  
Carry the earth’s weary children when human strength fails.  
This I pray in the name Jesus Christ who trusted you to bear him  
through death to certain life.  
Amen

(Diane Karay Tripp, from Liturgy Vol. 14 No. 1)

**Don’t Surrender**

Don’t surrender to your loneliness  
so quickly let it cut more deep.  
Let it ferment and season you as few human  
or even divine ingredients can.  
Something missing in my heart tonight  
has made my eyes soft, my voice so tender,  
my need of God absolutely clear.

(Persian Poet, Hafiz)

**Prayers for Hard Journeys**

When used in a group setting all read the texts in bold type

Life is a journey on many different roads  
**but God is always with us.**Sometimes we life our faces to the sun  
and God is always with us.  
But then there is the hard journey through pathways of pain  
and fears in dark places.  
**But God is with us.**

O God who travels with us in the shadows  
**you know who we are.**  
We long for life which is full and free.  
We long to know the truth  
and we want to leave behind us  
all the things that hold us back.

**We want to move forward in faith**  
but the way seems too hard  
and we stand in helpless fear  
to hurt, too tired to move forward.

**Stand beside us, gentle Christ.  
Walk before us, brave Jesus.  
Call us to new life, Spirit of the living God.  
Enlighten our path, brighten our days.**

A candle is lit

**See light for the journey  
light in the darkness  
brightness in the midst of your pain.**

We stretch out our hands to the warmth of the flame  
like the warmth of God’s love.  
May that love melt the frozen places in our hearts,  
the hardness, we carry like a stone within.  
**May God’s love surround us  
and travel with us on rocky ground.  
Forever and ever. Amen.**