

Pastoral prayer: In the stillness of this moment, O God,  
We knit our hearts to you. Take away all the things  
that lay claim to our hearts, thoughts and emotions  
in this moment, and help to know your nearness.

We give you our thanks for the blessings of your creation,  
its splendor and beauty are beyond our imagination.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting in the  
evening we look out and are reminded that you are  
God of all things. As we gaze upon the wonders of the  
heavens at night we are humbled, for we look upon  
the courts of your Kingdom. O God, you are truly a  
merciful God of the universe.

Yet, you also reign over our individual and  
personal lives. We give thanks for the blessings of  
health, noble of body and of mind, that you give to us.  
We thank you for those moments of insight and  
contemplation that make us aware of how near you are  
to us. We thank you for our homes that shelter us,  
our families that love us, and our friends that sur-  
round us.

Help us to be compassionate and concerned about  
the men and women who do not know you or the  
wonders of your Kingdom. Help people to know the peace  
of your presence and to feel your touch, which makes  
even the heaviest burden light - those who look upon  
each day as a new burden they must carry alone and upon  
each night with terror; those who know only the pained  
existence of sickness and uncertainty; those

Who, because of their own doing or because of the  
actions of others, do not have homes to shelter them, or  
the love of family and friends. O God, us in ways  
that will minister to these people so that we  
might be one in your name. In the Name of  
X J. Who taught us when we pray to say -

