A Prayer for Caregivers

Your care is astounding as we look out at your vast creation and say with the Psalmist,

> “When I consider your heavens,
> the work of your fingers,
> the moon and the stars,
> which you have set in place,
> what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
> human beings that you care for them?

You take notice of our most helpless of babies, our frailest of elders, and our poorest of poor. You care when we don’t have the desire, the energy, or time to do so ourselves. Help us, O God, to trust your care in the midst of the heartaches of this world. When we struggle to see how your “plan” makes any sense or any difference. Gives us hearts that our assured that even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are there.

Today, we lift up those whose vocation of caregiving imitates your care for the world. We celebrate the ways you are using their hands and feet, hugs and words, to be there for the most vulnerable.

We lament the ways that caregivers are overwhelmed by the task you have given them; for the ways that caring for others limits or even eliminates energy to care for themselves; for the ways that caregivers are often underappreciated.

We cry out for justice in this vocation, especially among those who make their living from it. May you put people in power in the organizations they work for and the political spheres that influence local laws around them, so they may be more appropriately compensated for the endless hours they give to others and the difficult work they do.

We ask that you would fill caregivers with a patient perseverance saturated in love as they engage with the people they’ve been called to care for. May you provide times of respite, so that they can be the recipients of care. And may the labors of this vocation be used to your glory in your church, our community, and our world. Amen.

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