Strengthen the Work of Our Hands

A Prayer Based on Psalm 90 (based on The Message translation)

Leader: God, it seems you've been our home forever;
  long before the mountains were born,
Long before you brought earth itself to birth,
  from "once upon a time" to "kingdom come"—you are God.

Lord God, let your loveliness rest on us,
  confirming the work that we do.
People: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

Leader: So don't return us to mud, saying,
  "Back to where you came from!"
Patience! You've got all the time in the world—whether
  a thousand years or a day, it's all the same to you.

Lord God, let your loveliness rest on us,
  confirming the work that we do.
People: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

Leader: Are we no more to you than a wispy dream,
  no more than a blade of grass
That springs up gloriously with the rising sun
  and is cut down without a second thought?
Your anger is far and away too much for us;
  we're at the end of our rope.
You keep track of all our sins; every misdeed
  since we were children is entered in your books.

Lord God, let your loveliness rest on us,
  confirming the work that we do.
People: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

All we can remember is that frown on your face.
  Is that all we're ever going to get?
We live for seventy years or so
  (with luck we might make it to eighty),

And what do we have to show for it? Trouble.
Toil and trouble and a marker in the graveyard.
Who can make sense of such rage,
such anger against the very ones who fear you?

Lord God, let your loveliness rest on us,
confirming the work that we do.
People: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

Leader: Oh! Teach us to live well!
Teach us to live wisely and well!
Come back, God—how long do we have to wait?—
and treat your servants with kindness for a change.
Surprise us with love at daybreak;
then we'll skip and dance all the day long.

Lord God, let your loveliness rest on us,
confirming the work that we do.
People: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

Make up for the bad times with some good times;
we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.
Let your servants see what you're best at—
the ways you rule and bless your children.

Lord God, let your loveliness rest on us,
confirming the work that we do.
People: Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!
Amen.

**Written for the Worship for Workers Project of Fuller Seminary by Kevin Adams from Granite Springs **