



*A Book of Prayers*

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**Arthur A. R. Nelson** presently serves as the chair of the board of Ministry Mentors, Inc. and as parish associate at Winnetka Covenant Church. In the past he has pastored churches throughout the United States including Massachusetts, Washington, New York and Illinois. He also served as the dean of North Park University and Seminary in Chicago.

## When You Can't Find the Words to Pray

In the spirit of the Book of Common Prayer, Arthur Nelson provides a new collection of public and private prayers to help us meet the uncertainties of life with the dignity of prayer.

Nelson writes: “Scripture calls us to pray for one another—and promises the presence of the Spirit in the midst of our prayer. However, when people are presented with a specific situation of emergency, be it physical pain, a difficult relationship or grief in the midst of loss, words for prayer do not come easily. During my five decades in pastoral ministry, I have found that in times of pain (or even of celebration), I have yearned to have at my disposal words that speak appropriately to the heart. I have imagined a collection in a form small enough to carry from place to place at a moment’s notice, and not so cumbersome as to appear to symbolize another burden in the face of a situation calling more for sensitivity than overpowering presence.”

*A Book of Prayers* offers prayers with honest language that address specific needs and concerns, both personal and public:

- For the Unemployed
- For One in Military Service
- For One Suffering with Dementia or Alzheimer’s Disease
- For One Suffering with Depression
- For One Facing Surgery
- For Those in the Midst of Divorce
- For Parents Adopting a Child
- For One Who Has Survived Abuse
- For Elections
- For Justice
- For the Year’s Seasons
- And more.

This is a difficult and uncertain time for individuals, communities and nations. These timely and sensitive prayers are meant to stimulate reflection and provide reassurance—both for us and for those we pray for.