

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN DELAWARE

A Prayer for Wisdom and Strength

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us pray.

O God, in our desire to serve you faithfully, remind us anew how it helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

Your kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is your work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that your kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes your entire mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

Guide us, O Lord, and grant us wisdom and strength to see your hand at work.

Remind us again that we plant seeds that one day will grow and which others will harvest.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something and to do it very well.

Our work may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for your grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of your future, O Lord, not our own.

In your most holy name, we pray, Amen.

adapted from "A Step Along the Way" by Bishop Ken Untener in honor of Archbishop Óscar Romero
http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/archbishop_romero_prayer.cfm

Revised January 2021