

# Feed the Spirit

**Janet Berkebile, Bill & Rosemary Pletcher** –  
Scripture – Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the LORD is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pas-  
ture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
And his courts with praise;  
Give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures  
forever: His faithfulness continues through  
all generations

**Grace Bollinger** – Statement

“I believe that friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.”

“People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed, only if there is a light from within.”



**The people of Creekside Church of the Brethren share bible verses, prayers, poems, hymns, and other worship aides that feed their spirit. Our cookbook of recipes for the soul.**

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Statement**

When you were born you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.  
Live your life so that when you die, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Statement**

The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't get on well in life until you let go of past failures and heart-aches.

**Walt Gilliland & Jean Mann – Prayer**

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy..

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

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No time to speak of Christ to friends,  
they'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time, no time, too much to do,  
that was my constant cry,  
no time to give to souls in need.  
But at last the time, the time to die

I went and stood before the Lord,  
there I stood with downcast eyes.  
For in his hands God held a book;  
it was the book of life.

God looked into his book and said  
"Your name I cannot find.  
I once was going to write it down  
but never found the time."

## **Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Statement**

The happiest of people don't necessarily  
have the best of everything;  
They just make the most of everything that  
comes along their way.

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**Cover photo provided by John Berkebile.  
"I like to think of Jesus this way" -John**

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Statement**

Yesterday is the past  
Tomorrow is the future  
Today is the present  
And that is the reason it is a gift

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Statement**

It is true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives.

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Statement**

NOT FOR LONG

I knelt to pray but not for long,  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work  
for bills would soon be due

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,  
and jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done  
my soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time  
to spread a word of cheer.

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Statement**

May you have enough happiness to  
make you sweet, enough trials to  
make you strong, enough sorrow to  
keep you human, enough hope to  
bring you joy.

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher**

YOU NEVER KNOW

You never know when someone  
may catch a dream from you.  
You never know when a little word  
Or something you may do  
May open up the windows  
Of a mind that seeks the light –  
The way you live may not matter at all  
But you never know – it might.

And just in case it could be  
That another's life through you,  
Might possibly change for the better  
With a broader and brighter view,  
It seems it might be worth a try  
At pointing the way to the right –  
Of course, it may not matter at all,  
But then again – it might.

Anonymous

**ROOTED IN GOD**

**Norma Miller – Scripture – Psalm 139:23-24**

Search me, O God, and know  
my heart;  
test me and know my  
anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way  
in me,  
and lead me in the way  
everlasting.

**Norma Miller – Scripture – Proverbs 22:6**

Train a child in the way  
he should go  
and when he is old  
he will not turn from it.

**Norma Miller & Paul Ritzmann –  
Scripture – John 3:16-17**

For God so loved the world that he  
gave his only Son that whoever believes in  
him should not perish but have everlasting  
life. For God sent not his Son into the  
world to condemn the world but that  
the world through him might be saved.

**Pauline Arnold** – Scripture – Isaiah 49:15b-16

I will not forget you!  
I have engraved you  
On the palm of my hands.



Pauline Arnold

**Rosanna McFadden** – Scripture – John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

**Kathy Royer** – Inspiration Object  
(see picture on previous page)

When my daughter Anne graduated from high school in 1988, the best gift I thought I could give her was The Serenity Prayer. (I also paid for her college education.)

Myrtis Justiniano stitched the saying and it was beautifully framed. Since Anne was in a dorm, she allowed me to hang it at our house for a few years. Every time I looked at it, I had hope for the present and future.

Now, with a home of her own, she asked for it. The saying hangs on her living room wall. I guess the best inspirational object is one we pass on to our family and friends.

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher** – Statement

Always put yourself in another's shoes  
If you feel that it hurts you,  
it probably hurts the other person, too.

**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher** – Statement

Don't go for looks; they can deceive.  
Don't go for wealth; even that fades away.  
Go for someone who makes you smile because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

**Kathy Royer – Worship Aide**



**Bill & Rosemary Pletcher**

**SERENDIPITY PRAYER**

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I can not  
change, the courage to change  
the things I can and the  
wisdom to know the difference

**Rosanna McFadden –**

Scripture – 2 Corinthians 4:5,7

We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus sake... But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

**Jan Birr & Judy DePue –**

Scripture – Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing.

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive

today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying "What will we eat?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Jesus instructions about worry have been very helpful to me through the years, as I seem to be one who worries a lot and needs the comfort these words bring. **(Jan Birr)**

### **Sandy Gordon – Statement**

Outside my window a new day I see, and only I can determine what kind of day it will be. I can be busy and sunny, laughing and gay; or it can be boring and cold, unhappy and grey. My own state of mind is the determining key, for I am only the person I let myself be. I can be thoughtful and do all I can to help or be selfish and think only of myself. I can enjoy what I do and make it seem fun, or gripe and complain and make it hard on someone else. I can be patient with those who may not understand, or belittle and hurt them as much as I can.

But, I have faith in myself and will personally intend to make the best of each day starting TODAY!

### **Sandy Gordon & Judy DePue –**

Scripture – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous, conceited, or proud. Love is not ill-mannered, selfish, or irritable. Love does not keep a record of wrongs. Love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

Meanwhile, these three remain; faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is LOVE.

**Cathy Barwick** – Scripture – Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

**Bruce Barwick** – Scripture – Proverbs 1:2-7

That men may know wisdom and instruction, understand words of insight, receive instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity: that prudence may be given to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—the wise man also may hear and increase in learning, and the man of understanding, acquire skill, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Myron Miller**

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you..

**Betty Kelsey**

### **Prayer of St Irenaeus**

(2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY)

**It is not you who shapes God,  
It is God who shapes you.  
If then you are the work of God,  
Await the hand of the artist  
Who does all things in due season.  
Offer him your heart, soft and tractable  
And keep the form  
in which the artist formed you.  
Let your clay be moist,  
Lest you grow hard  
And lose the imprint of his fingers.**

*Resurrection (breathe in) will be now (breathe out).  
—Rumi Breath Prayer*

*"Spirit of the Living God, present with me now,  
enter my mind, body and spirit, and heal me of  
all that harms me."*

*--from Iona Community service of laying on of  
hands*

**"Behold, I never withdraw my arms  
from my work."**

**--Julian of Norwich**



*"May I become hollow like the reed,*  
*so you may play your melody through me."*  
*--Psalm 119 from "Psalms for Praying"*

*God speaks in RIDDLES*  
*because we use certainties as weapons.*  
*God speaks in PARADOX*  
*to lead us to mystery.*  
*God speaks in SILENCE*  
*because words cannot contain infinity.*  
*- Jane Pope, Shalem Associate 2005*

**Katy McFadden & Karen Eis –**  
 Scripture – Micah 6:8

What does the Lord require of you  
 but to do justice, love mercy  
 and walk humbly with your God.

**David Eis –** Scripture – Roman 12:1

So then, my brothers,  
 because of God's great mercy  
 to us I appeal to you:  
 Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice  
 to God, dedicated to his service  
 and pleasing to him.  
 This is the true worship  
 that you should offer.

**Karen Eis –** Scripture – Matthew 25:40

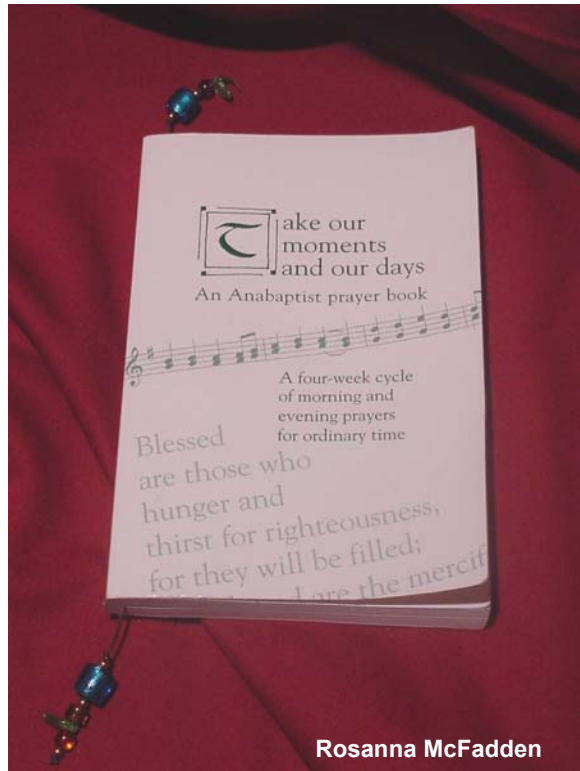
The Lord will reply," I tell you the truth.  
 whatever you did for one of the least of  
 these brothers of mine, you did for me"

**Karen Eis –** Scripture – Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord say-  
 ing "Whom shall I send?  
 And who will go for us?" And I said  
 "Here am I. Send me!"

**Rosanna McFadden** – Scripture – Isaiah 40:31

They who wait for the Lord  
shall renew their strength,  
They shall mount up with  
wings like eagles.  
They shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.



**Marjorie Kirkdorffer, Don Gordon, Pauljean Ritzmann, Bill & Rosemary Pletcher**  
– Scripture – Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even through I walk through the darkest valley, I fear  
no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff –  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my  
enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup over-  
flows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of  
the Lord my whole life long.

**Marjorie Kirkdorffer** – Scripture – Psalm 91

The Lord is my refuge and my fortress, in him will I  
trust.

**Bruce Barwick** – Scripture – Proverbs 1:2-7

That men may know wisdom and instruction, under-  
stand words of insight, receive instruction in wise  
dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity: that pru-  
dence may be given to the simple, knowledge and  
discretion to the youth-the wise man also may hear  
and increase in learning, and the man of understand-  
ing, acquire skill, to understand a proverb and a fig-  
ure, the words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

## Myron Miller

GOD IS LOVE

**David Bibbee** – Prayer – *The Road Not Taken*  
A Prayer by Thomas Merton

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.

I do not know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that  
I think I am following your will does not mean  
I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you. And I hope I have  
this desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart  
from that desire. And I know that if I do this,  
you will lead me by the right road though I  
may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I  
may seem to be lost and in the shadow of  
death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my per-  
ils alone.

## BEARING FRUIT IN THE SPIRIT

**Norma Miller** – Scripture – Joshua 24:15

Choose you this day whom you will serve;  
as for me and my house, we will serve the  
Lord.

**Norma Miller** – Scripture – Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Jan Weaver** – Scripture – Psalm 37:5-6

Commit your way to the Lord;  
Trust in him, and he will do this.  
He will make your righteousness  
shine like the dawn,  
The justice of your cause  
like the noon day sun.

**Karen Eis – 1 Peter 5:8**

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour.

**Commentary:**

An old fable tells how the devil was asked to show all of his weapons, Many people came to see them. Some were familiar-power, greed, pride, envy, jealousy, lust. He unveiled all of his best weapons attractive to the eye and beguiling to the heart, useful to lure the unwary to destruction of spirit and flesh. But one weapon in a special container he saved for last. Slowly the devil removed it and said, "This is my best weapon. This is discouragement. It is the wedge I use to try to break the strongest soul. When it is effective, I always win the battle." Discouragement is always a possibility in our lives, often as a result of stresses and strains of living. When discouragement comes, we are admonished in scripture to turn to prayer, support one another, and believe that God is with us in the struggle. There may be no easy answers. But with God's presence there is always hope, and hope can triumph over discouragement. Today's hope can become the seed of tomorrow's victory.

**Prayer:** Eternal God, grant us a sense of Your presence and strength in the difficult times of our living. Enable us, by Your grace, to find courage that is born of discouragement. Amen.

**Thought for the Day:**

God is with us in every struggle of life.

Larry Norris

**Marilee Gilliland – Scripture – Psalm 121**

I will lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber; The Lord is your shade at your right hand, the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over you life.

**Janet Berkebile, Bill & Rosemary Pletcher – Scripture – Psalm 100**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving And his courts with praise; Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations



**Janet Berkebile** – Hymnal: a worship book #580

“No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?”

**Paul Ritzmann** – Worship Aide

(Irish Cross with a circle)  
Purchased from Washington National  
Cathedral.

The inscription says:

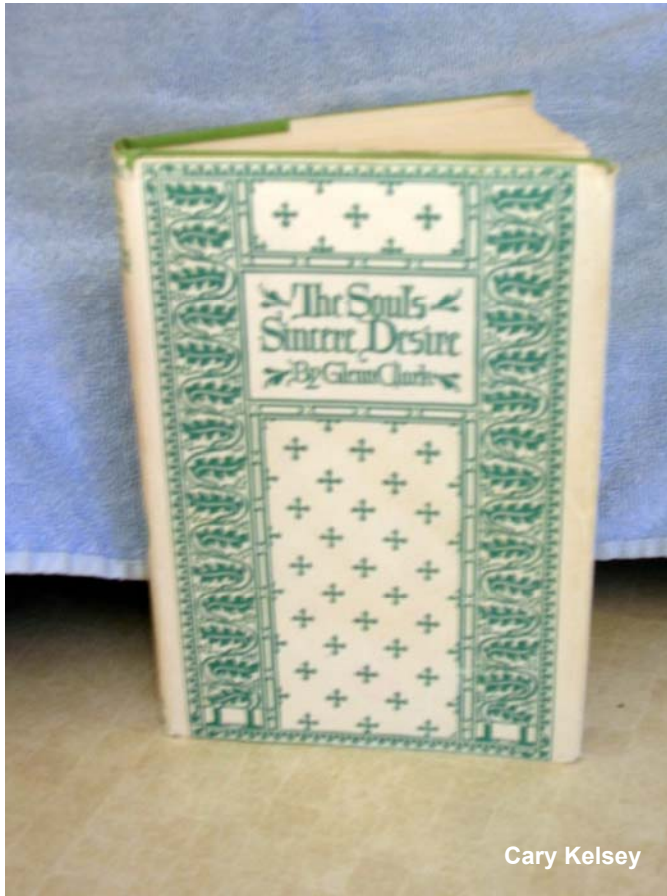
“That it may please Thee to give to all  
nations Unity, Peace, and Concord”



**Cary Kelsey – Hymn**

I BIND MY HEART THIS TIDE

To the Galilean's side  
To the wounds of Calvary  
To the Christ who died for me



Cary Kelsey

**GROWING IN JESUS**

**Norma Miller – Prayer**

Lord, each day of my life like a carousel turns, there are chances to take and lessons to learn. Caught up in problems that each day would bring. Chances slip by to catch the brass ring. Whenever I felt my ride slowing down, your gentle hand would push me around. Picking me up each time that I fell – you rode beside me on my carousel.

**Norma Miller – Scripture – Ephesians 2:8-9**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Frances Billet – Statement**

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior.

By Max Lucado

**Frances Billet** – Scripture – Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**Marjorie Kirkdorffer** –  
Scripture – Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

**Sandy Miller** – Scripture – Matthew 22:37

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is love your neighbor as you love yourself.

**Marilee Gilliland** – Scripture – Matthew 7:7

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

**Jan Birr** – Worship Aide

The reproduction of Christ praying in Gethsemane is a comfort and constant reminder of what Jesus was doing for us.



**John Berkebile** – Scripture – Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**I SAID A PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY**

I said a prayer for you today  
And know God must have heard.  
I felt the answer in my heart  
Although He spoke no word!  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame  
(I knew you wouldn't mind)  
I asked Him to send treasures  
Of a far, more lasting kind!  
I asked that He'd be near you  
At the start of each new day  
To grant you health and blessings  
And friends to share your way!  
I asked for happiness for you  
In all things great and small  
But it was for His loving care  
I prayed the most of all!

**Sandy Miller** – Scripture – Hebrews 12:2

Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Keep your eyes on Jesus, our leader and instructor.

**Grace Bollinger** – Statement

Last night my little boy confessed to me some childish wrong; and kneeling on my knee, he prayed with tears, "Dear God, make me a man like Daddy – wise and strong; I know you can." Then, while he slept, I knelt beside his bed, confessed my sins, and prayed with low-bowed head- "O God, make me a child like my child here. Pure, guileless, trusting Thee with faith sincere."

**Myron Miller**

WWJD – What would Jesus do



I brought this figure of Jesus back with me from the Mission at San Juan Capistrano in California. There were many beautiful sculptures of Jesus, but this one especially drew my attention along with the following description:

*This crucifix, with the loving Christ bending toward the troubled world extending His offer of the Gift of Peace, symbolized by the spread winged dove, expresses perfectly the Gospel message of Jesus, "Peace I leave with you. My Peace I give you." John 14:27.*

To me, this seems symbolic of the Brethren view of the cross.

**Judy DePue – Scripture – Colossians 1:9-14**

For this reason since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord, and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.