

Prayer of Comfort
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January 3, 2009 at the Memorial Service of Leroy Yarbrough
First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas

God of comfort, walk this valley with us. Remind us there are blue skies somewhere out there. That across the horizon calm waters await us, that flowers still bloom in the mountain snow, and that sounds of laughter follow the tears that flow in the night.

God of comfort, is it too much to ask for the meaning of it all? Seems it would bring us such relief if it all made sense. Forgive us Father, for we would have done it differently, for we still would choose to go back and delete some of the scenes or edit the script of these past months. . .

We long for an explanation from which some kind of logic would emerge--some form of interpretation that would bring us peace. How hard it is to surrender the controls of our lives, to give up being human, dear Father.

But, if not understanding, then increase our capacity to trust-- that the same One who gives us life has not forgotten us in our grief.

God of comfort, we ask again, increase our capacity to trust. Remind us that this journey has always been about faith and once again, give us the courage to surrender minute by minute, hour by hour until we learn that it is your presence, not our understanding, that brings us your kind of peace.

So God of comfort, help us to see that gratitude for what *IS* remains the secret to dealing with what *ISN'T*. And what *is* here today is a legacy of faith of one of your imperfect servants who lived fully, loved deeply, and believed that the closest we will ever come to experiencing your presence in this world is worship of you in the universal language of music. To this purpose, Father, we dedicate ourselves in this service of celebration.

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