# Prayer When IllnessReturns

*By David Sparks, United Church of Canada minister, and Sheila Noyes, former co-president of Dying with Dignity Canada*

God, All-Loving and Compassionate,
I am numbed by the news that my illness has returned.
It is overwhelming that my so-cherished hopes are dashed; all my plans are nothing now.
I don’t know where to turn, I don’t know who to search out,
I feel this devastating news is destroying me.

(*time of silent reflectio*n)

But you are with me all the time, with me in the very worst and the very best life has to offer.
Loving God, I know that at this instant when you seem so closed to me, so remote from me that you are with me, absolutely with me.
Your nature is not judgment but sustained compassion.
You will not keep me at arm’s length but embrace me with your eternal love.
Loving God, I open myself up to your love, your love that nothing can destroy.
I am ready to receive that love.

(*time of silent reflection*)

In the tears I shed, I know you grieve with me.
In the harsh words I use, in the rejection, even of those who are closest to me,
I know you empathically understand the depth and breadth of my feeling.

As I turn with reluctance to the task of reshaping my shortened life’s journey,
I know you will give me the insight to find good experiences to share,
good days among the hard days, moments to savour, moments of joy,.

I pray for those nearest and dearest to me, *name*, *name*, and *name*, as they support me in the coming days. They will need patience, they will need perseverance, they will need flexibility, and their love will be tested, but you, Compassionate God, will go with them every step of the way.

I pray for those who resume my medical treatment and hospital care, in all the testing situations we will face together.

Bless my family and friends, and bless those who heal and support, for in this life and beyond this life you are with us and will never let us down.

I pray in the name of Jesus who came to a tragic and far too early death. Amen