

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

# Healing Garden Prayer Service

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### The Symbol of the Pinwheels

Pinwheels have existed for thousands of years. They are often seen as childhood toys and recognized as symbols of childhood innocence. The Chinese and other cultures have used the pinwheel as a symbol of turning from the old to the new, from bad luck to good fortune. The wind would turn the pinwheel, casting out the bad and replacing it with the good. During times of slavery, pinwheels were often woven into blankets symbolizing the hope of slaves to move from slavery to freedom. Most recently, pinwheels have been used in a worldwide movement to fight against child labor and to promote peace.

We gather with pinwheels, created by our children, to symbolize the innocence of youth and to express our desire that every child be safe wherever they are. All too often, many children and teens in our culture suffer abuse. Physical, verbal and sexual abuse can rob a child of their innocence and threaten their human dignity.

The pinwheels we plant symbolize all of those children who have been, or are at risk of, being hurt by adults in their life. We pray that, as the wind turns the pinwheels that we hold, that our prayer, united with the free-flowing Spirit of God, will help reassure all children that we will support them in their healing. We promise to continue working to ensure that every child will be safe, loved and cared for in a way that affirms their dignity as a child made in the image and likeness of God.

It is the Spirit of God, often symbolized as a mighty yet gentle wind, that will help blow away the pain and the hurt, the fears and the tears of all children or teens who have been hurt by an adult. It is the Spirit of God, that mighty wind, that will move us to defend the dignity and protect the lives of all children and youth who God has entrusted to our care.

We give thanks to and for our students, parents, family, faculty members, and friends who attended the prayer service in body and in spirit.

Thank you, all, for sharing this special day with us.



### Gathering Instrumentals



### Opening Song: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let  
it shine, shine, shine, let it shine!

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. Let  
it shine, shine, shine, let it shine!

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, shine, shine, let it shine!

# Welcome & Introduction

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:15-17

Reflection

Planting of the Pinwheels

Song: *Amazing Grace*

At this time, we invite all to come forward to plant the pinwheels in our dedicated Healing Garden. These pinwheels will be a sign to all who visit here of our hope for healing for them and our pledge to work that all children will be safe in all that they do.



Prayers of the Faithful

Response: *Powerful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...*

A prayer that those in leadership positions in our schools and communities take an active role in preventing child abuse and supporting the victims of it.

We pray that they have the wisdom and strength to guide our children through difficult times and set an example for future generations.

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Merciful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer that children have the strength to be honest with adults when something troubles them and to seek help whenever needed.

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Peaceful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer for our children and their future. May the right values of faith and justice be instilled in them to prepare for a new world that they will lead.

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Watchful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer for all educators. We pray that they may have the clarity to identify situations of abuse and the prudence to act swiftly and sagely.

Help them keep our children safe.

Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Enlightening God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer for all children and teens to know that they are important, capable, and strong, no matter what their past may hold.

May they hold their faith close to their heart to guide them. Hear our prayer on the winds of Your love.

Lord's Prayer

Final Blessing

Closing Song: *Though the Mountains May Fall*



1. Could the Lord ev - er leave you? Could the Lord for -
2. Should you turn and for - sake him, he will gent - ly
3. Go to him when you're wea - ry; he will give you
4. As he swore to your fa - thers, when the flood de -



2. call your name. Should you wan - der a -
3. ea - gle's wings. You will run, nev - er
4. stroyed the land, he will nev - er for -



1. sake her child, he will not a - ban - don you.
2. way from him, he will al - ways take you back.
3. tire, \_\_\_\_\_ for your God will be your strength.
4. sake you; \_\_\_\_\_ he will swear to you a - gain.