

## Groups of the Spirit (GOTS) | Gathering Prayer | A Prayer for Eastertide

*Intentions for the prayer below:*

- Weave God into the mix, given GOTS are church-sponsored gatherings ☺
- Honor our Mission Covenant Goals of supporting faith formation across all ages and stages, deepening our welcome (of our diverse journeys of faith), building authentic relationships across similarities and differences, and to create a shared experience across the various GOTS.

*Instructions for the prayer below:*

1. If you don't have copies for everyone, find it online at <http://saintjudes.org/groups-spirit-gots>
  2. Choose a prayer leader to lead this prayer, near the beginning of your time together.
  3. All are invited to share during in the “circle payer” section, and of course, each may “pass for now” or “pass” all together!
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*Prayer Leader:*

Let us pray: Life-giving God, holy women and men who have gone before us – like Nehemiah and the Psalmists\* – remind us that joy and laughter help renew our strength. Today, we pause to pray silently for those places in our lives and in the world in need of strengthening joy. And we pray for guidance to live like our patron Saint Jude, whose name means “giver of joy” in the midst of seemingly hopeless situations. As we pray to share strengthening joy with others, we also give thanks for the joys in our lives, including those we name now silently or aloud:

*Circle prayer:*

- *Go around the circle and share in one word or phrase what joy(s) you are currently celebrating in your life.*
- *You may “pass for now” and we will return to you before continuing, or you may “pass” altogether.*
- *After all have had an opportunity to share, then close together saying...*

*All:* **Embolden us to share generously joy and laughter with those around us, we pray, *Amen.***

\*E.g., Nehemiah 8.10, Psalms 16.11