

Gulf Oil Disaster: Prayers for Healing and of Confession

by Michael Schut

Prayer for Healing

Creator God, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig struck a reservoir of oil. When it exploded in April, the rig struck a reservoir of grief.

We feel the grief when we remember the eleven workers who lost their lives. The eleven families who lost loved ones.

We feel the grief when we remember the pelicans, oiled wings spread wide, when we remember hermit crabs abandoning their shells, the endangered sea turtle eggs, the bottlenose dolphin, cattle egrets, ibises and sandwich terns.

We feel the grief when we remember the fishers whose livelihoods are endangered, the businesses whose tills are empty, and all whose jobs are lost, and likelihood of recovery dim.

We feel the grief when we remember our own reactions. Some of us have cried with great sadness, some have cried in great anger, and some folded heavy with despair.

God, we believe the grief is a good sign: it reveals to us that we are connected to our brothers and sisters, to fellow creatures, to the land and sea. But we also desire to be healed of that grief.

So, we bring these sorrows before you as a community. We ask that you bring healing to our hearts and souls. We ask that your healing presence and love be with all those in the Gulf still grieving, at a loss, and seeking a way forward this day.

We pray in Jesus' name, the one who suffered and is acquainted with grief, and the one who healed suffering wherever he went. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

Part of what grieves us this day is the awareness that we bear some responsibility for the Deepwater Horizon disaster. We have come to rely on cheap oil; we do not want to change our lifestyles; we press for more.

Forgive us our sin, restore us to right relationship with You, with one another, and with all creation. Renew our lives so that we might be the good stewards You created us to be. Humbling ourselves, we place our lives into Your care. Amen.

