

# A Liturgy for Missing Someone

[All Stand, With Empty Hands Cupped]

**LEADER:**

We willingly carry this ache.

**EVERYONE:**

We carry it, O Father, to you.

[IF YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE, HOLD  
HANDS WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR]

**LEADER:**

You created our hearts for unbroken fellowship.  
Yet, the constraints of time and place, and the  
stuttering rhythms of life in a fallen world  
dictate that all fellowships in these days  
will at times be broken or incomplete.

**EVERYONE:**

And so we find ourselves in this season,  
Bearing the sorrow of our separation from  
\_\_\_\_\_.

[SPEAK (TO YOURSELF IF YOU WISH) THE  
NAME OF THE ABSENT PERSON]

**LEADER:**

We acknowledge, O Lord, that it is  
a right and a good thing to miss deeply  
those whom we love but with whom  
we cannot be physically present.

**EVERYONE:**

Grant us, therefore, courage to love well  
even in this time of absence.

**LEADER:**

Grant us courage to shrink neither from  
the aches nor from the joys that love brings,  
for each, willingly received, will accomplish  
the good works you have appointed them to do.

**EVERYONE:**

Therefore we praise you even for our sadness,  
knowing that the sorrows we steward in this life  
will, in time, be redeemed.

**LEADER:**

We praise you also knowing that these glad aches  
are a true measure of the bonds you have wrought  
between our hearts.

**EVERYONE:**

Now use our sorrows as tools in your hand,  
O Lord, shaping our hearts into a truer imitation  
of the affections of Christ.

**LEADER:**

Use even this sadness to carve out spaces in our souls  
where still greater repositories of holy affection  
might be held, unto the end that we might better love,  
in times of absence and in times of presence alike.

**EVERYONE:**

We now entrust all to your keeping.

**LEADER:**

May our reunion be joyous, whether in this life  
or in the life to come.

**EVERYONE:**

How we look forward, O Lord, to the day when  
all our fellowships will be restored, eternal and  
unbroken.  
Amen.