



### A Summer Prayer

Long warm days...  
The pace of life slows...  
A time for picnics and rest in the shade...

Lord,  
help us to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence.  
Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people.

Amen.



-Anon.



### Go With God!

### A Summer Blessing

Go with God! This is a summer prayer for you.  
Take it with you and keep it in your mind and heart.

As you leave school for the summer, and you lay aside textbooks and notebooks and pencils and pens,  
Go with God, for God goes with you.

As you begin new projects  
Or a well deserved family vacation  
As you meet and make new friends,  
go with God, God will guide you.

As you enjoy the summer sun  
and the summer's cool blue waters,  
Be wise and safe.  
Respect the beauty of the earth  
as God's gift to you,  
And go with God, for God has created you.

As you go to quiet places to reflect  
and to pray,  
To enjoy the peace,  
And the beauty of private space  
And time off,  
Go with God, for God always goes with you.

-Anon.

## Nurturing Our Inner Gardens: A Liturgy to Celebrate the End of the School Year



**“It's not what is poured into a student that counts, but what is planted. “**

**—Linda Conway**

## Introduction



We gather together for the last time this school year. Soon we will break for the summer months. During this beautiful season of summer, God has given us the opportunity to spend time in the outdoors, admiring nature and all its beauty.

Today's liturgy allows us time to reflect upon what seeds we have planted and nurtured this school year in our inner gardens and in the hearts of others.

## Opening Prayer

Reader 1: Gracious Gardener,  
How wondrously You care for my soil.  
You send Your waters of refreshment.  
You fertilize me with Your wisdom.  
You warm me with Your tender kindness.  
You keep drawing us toward Your light.

Reader 2: New growth continually sprouts  
from the soil of my spiritual garden.  
Flowers of creativity bloom.  
Herbs of joy flavour my days.  
Vegetables of nourishment flourish.

Reader 1: Gracious Gardener,  
I trust that You will continually  
Water my growing garden  
And drench my flower beds  
With Your abiding love.  
Amen.



*-Joyce Rupp  
Prayers to Sophia*



## Scripture Reading: Sirach 42: 15-6, 23-5

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Now will I recall God's works; what I have seen, I will describe. At God's word were his works brought into being; they do his will as he has ordained for them. As the rising sun is clear to all, so the glory of the Lord fills all his works... How beautiful are all his works! Even to the spark and the fleeting vision! The universe lives and abides forever; to meet each need, each creature is preserved. All of them differ, one from another, yet none of them has he made in vain, For each in turn, as it comes, is good; can one ever see enough of their splendor? The word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.

## Prayer Response

As the grasses are stilled with light,  
**All: God, teach us stillness.**

As old stones suffer with memory,  
**All: God, teach us suffering.**

As blossoms are humble with beginning,  
**All: God, teach us humility.**

As parents secure their young,  
**All: God, teach us caring.**

As the tree stands all alone,  
**All: God, teach us courage.**

As the ant crawls on the ground,  
**All: God, teach us limitation.**

As the eagle soars from the sky,  
**All: God, teach us freedom.**

As leaves die in the fall,  
**All: God, teach us resignation.**

As the seed rises in the spring,  
**All: God, teach us regeneration.**

As melted snow forgets its life,  
**All: God, teach us to forget our selfishness.**

As dry fields weep with rain,  
**All: God, teach us to remember kindness.**



-Ute Prayer

*"I said, I will water my garden and*