

Prayer of Blessing the Work of Our Hands

Blessed be the works of your hands,
O Holy One.

Blessed be these hands that have touched life.

Blessed be these hands that have nurtured creativity.

Blessed be these hands that have held pain.

Blessed be these hands that have embraced with passion.

Blessed be these hands that have tended gardens.

Blessed be these hands that have closed in anger.

Blessed be these hands that have planted new seeds.

Blessed be these hands that have harvested ripe fields.

Blessed be these hands that have cleaned, washed,
mopped, scrubbed.

Blessed be these hands that have become knotty with age.

Blessed be these hands that are wrinkled and scarred
from doing justice.

Blessed be these hands that have reached out and
been received.

Blessed be these hands that hold the promise of the
future.

Blessed be the works of your hands,
O Holy One.¹

¹ Prayer by Diann Neu from *Imaging the Word: An Arts and Lectionary Resource*, Volume 1, 1994.

*Blessed be the
works of your*



Prayers of the People

Left: Show me the suffering of the most miserable;
So I will know my people's plight.

Right: Free me to pray for others;
For you are present in every person.

Left: Help me take responsibility for my own life;
So that I can be free at last.

Right: Grant me courage to serve others;
For in service there is true life.

Left: Give me honesty and patience;
So that I can work with other workers.

**All: Bring forth song and celebration;
So that the Spirit will be alive among us.**

**Let the Spirit flourish and grow;
So that we will never tire of the struggle.**

**Let us remember those who have died for justice;
For they have given us life.**

**Help us love even those who hate us;
So we can change the world.**

Amen. ²

² Prayer of César Chávez, adapted into litany form by April McGlothlin.