

Prayer on Baccalaureate Sunday

Richard A. Rhem
Christ Community Church
Spring Lake, Michigan

June 4, 2000

Transcription of the prepared text

Hear us now, O Lord,
as we place our lives before You –
individually,
as a community.
We come here each of us with special concerns of the heart.
In silence, hear our heart beat,
our heart's cry.

Today we recognize those who have completed
a state of education, of preparation for life.
Bless them, each one.
We celebrate their gifts, their achievements, their future.
Give them joy and delight in what has been accomplished.
Give them vision
and call them to commitment
to significant endeavor.

For these beautiful young people we pray –
what a gift they are.
What potential they represent.
Let them sense the truth of Jesus' word,
*That it is in losing their lives
that they will find life,
in serving that they will be fulfilled.*

Creator Spirit,
brood over this community of faith,
this Christ Community.
Keep us steady; keep us strong;
keep our spirits open,
our hearts tender, our whole being full of grace.

Sometimes we wonder;
sometimes we waver;
sometimes we want to run, to be done with it all.
But where would that leave us?
Where would we run?
To whom would we turn?

So, good and gracious God, gather us in,
hold us close, steel our purpose.
Give us joy in the journey
and undying trust in your purpose for us.

Hear this our prayer,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.