# A Prayer for All Affected by the East Japan Earthquake

## (Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami, 2011)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we shall not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46:1–4)

We remember the pain of those who experienced the earthquake on March 11, 2011 and we pray for them.

**We ask that the souls of those who died or disappeared during the earthquake and tsunami may find themselves at rest in your loving arms.**

We ask that you be close to those whose hearts are filled with sadness and pain after losing family, friends, homes, and precious belongings.

**We remember those who lost their lives, those who had to leave their homes, and those who live in uncertainty and fear after the nuclear power plant accidents. We ask that you be with them, especially with children.**

Several years have passed and the land still suffers from radiation. Those who have returned to their homes as well as those who are still unable to do so carry a heavy burden and responsibility. The work of repairing the nuclear reactors is not progressing, and people must live and work in this situation. The earthquake has shown us the injustices and inequalities in Japanese society. We ask ourselves whether the thoughts we have had, the decisions we have made, and the paths we have taken were really in accord with the will of God.

**Rather than seeking only economic growth, may we seek lifestyles that humbly recognize and express gratitude for the grace of God in the natural environment in which we find ourselves.**

Throughout Japan there have been many natural disasters: torrential rainfalls, blizzards, typhoons, and heatwaves brought about by climate change. We remember those who are suffering—those from other countries and those in positions of weakness in Japanese society. We pray that they will be treated with respect. O God, please use us as instruments of your peace.

**We seek a world where all of creation can live together in harmony and so, with humility, we turn our hearts to the voice of nature so that we can know its suffering.**

We ask that we might be in solidarity with those suffering so deeply throughout the world and that we might be led to share in the suffering and salvation of Christ at this time.

**We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**

— Rob Witmer, retired United Church mission personnel, translated this prayer. This prayer is used at the Mizonokuchi Church in the city of Kawasaki, a part of Kanagawa Prefecture and of the Kanagawa District of the United Church of Christ in Japan.