

COMMENCEMENT INVOCATION

Praying ...means we recognize there is a higher power,
and we're not him.

Praying... means we recognize our needs...
and aren't afraid to voice them.

Praying... presumes we're humble and confident at the same time.
But most of all, praying assumes a relationship,
for without a genuine relationship, prayer, at best,
is pandering ...and at worst manipulation.

So let us pray
with humility and confidence,
rooted in a relationship with the Divine
in which we are God's beloved children
and God is our prodigal father
lavishing upon us his unconditional love:

Father God,
You are known by many names and one of them is Mercy;
You live within the praises of your people,
but in our works of love you are made flesh
and dwell among us as healer, teacher, liberator, and friend.

You call us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked
to shelter the homeless and give drink to the thirsty.

In these Halls, we have experienced Mercy
through instruction and counsel
through those who've patiently borne our wrongs
and forgiven our transgressions
who've comforted us
prayed with and for us in our needs
and taught us the ways of the mind and of the Spirit.

In Mercy you created and you nurtured us;
here in these Halls of Mercy we've walked by the light of learning
that dispels ignorance and fear.

Now, as we move on from this place,
hand us the torch
and fill our voices with conviction to proclaim:

We are your works of Mercy, Lord.

We are your light!

Send us forth announcing,
not with our lips but with unassuming lives...
for with open, loving hearts
and eyes that see the needs before us;
with eager, helpful hands
that break bonds and heal wounds with equal passion
we will proclaim
We are your works of Mercy, Lord
We are your light!
We are your works of Mercy, Lord
We are your light!

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