

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Our Relationships

By Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe

EL Shadai in the time before time You began to sing a love song which called all of creation into being. Out of an abundance of love, you who experience love and companionship in your very being desired to be in relationship with us. And so, you made us in your image and called us your own.

For this we give you thanks.

Out of the abundance of your love, you created us not only for you but for one another. We thank you Lord, for the variety of ways that your love connects us.

We thank you for the love of intimate partners. We thank you for those whose fidelity and faithfulness carry them through the years. We thank you for those who seek to bring out the best in their partners and who encourage them to grow and flourish as who they are meant to be. We thank you for those who seek to understand as well as to be understood; for those who listen as well as speak. We thank you for bodily pleasures, as two become one, and we connect body and psyche.

We thank you for the nurturing love that is seen between a father and his child. We thank you for the trusting and vulnerable love of a toddler who lifts her arms seeking to connect with her mother. We thank you for the unconditional love of parents who set boundaries for and allow independence in a growing teen. We thank you for shared conversations, the mutual respect and concern of adult children and their parents. And, we thank you for a child's love that propels them into a caregiver role to their parent who is no longer able to care for themselves.

We thank you for the generational love of families. We give you thanks for grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins, and nieces and nephews who teach us who we are and help us to become who we will be. We give you thanks for the myriad of ways that they enrich our lives and show us their love. We thank you for the laughter and tears we share. We thank you for families who are created by biology and those that are created by choice. We thank you that when we look into their eyes we see a part of ourselves, connected and rooted in you. We thank you that in recognizing our sameness we learn to value our uniqueness.

We thank you for friendships that enrich our lives. We thank you for the companionship and laughter that comes with shared interests and activities. We thank you for shared journeys and the adventure of getting to know another's heart. We thank you for the support and comfort of lifelong friends. We thank you for those who challenge us to be our best and who extend grace and forgiveness when we fall short of this goal.

We thank you for coworkers and colleagues. We thank you for mentors and counselors and guides. We thank you for all who celebrate our successes with us seeking to collaborate rather than compete. We thank you for neighbors whose causal conversations brighten our days.

We thank you Lord for workers, whose names we read on name tags or do not know at all for their toil makes our lives easier and more manageable. We thank you Lord, for the strangers who come our way. We ask that we may show them the hospitality that you have shown to us. El Shadai as we are drawn by your love, may we grow to love all whom you love. May we recognize the web of creation spun in love through which we are connected by love.

Amen.