Suicide Prevention Prayer

God, thank you for the gift of life in all of its splendor and its sorrow.
Even in our darkest moments, we are grateful for this gracious gift.
But in our celebration of life, we pause to acknowledge that some among us
have suffered greatly from the loss of a loved one to suicide.
They are crushed with grief, wondering if anything will ever make sense again –
if they will ever heal and recover from the devastation of their loss.
There are also some among us who find themselves on the edge of despair,
either too numb to feel much of anything or full of anxious, dark thoughts of
ending their life. Hope has begun to fade and they are holding on by a thread.

God, in these moments, may we remember that
we are never alone – not even for a single moment.
Thank you for your promise to never abandon us or forsake us,
and for the security of your dear presence ever within us.
Thank you for the promise that nothing can separate us from
your love found in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
Thank you, also, for the reassurance that we don't have to walk this pilgrim
path by ourselves; thank you for the sacred companions on the journey –
brothers and sisters who are willing to listen to us, cry with us,
pray with us, hold us, stand with us in our loneliness, be Jesus-in-the-flesh
reminders of your nearness to us, and especially for those
who have faith for us when our own faith falters.
For those who need a fresh infusion of hope, may our time here together today
provide that hope - hope to hold on, praying expectantly
for better days ahead, for the return of joy, and the release of sorrow.
May those of us not currently experiencing grief or loss respond to our aching
brothers and sisters in pain with tender compassion,
so that we will be able to say together “Where there is faith, there is hope;
where there is hope, there is LIFE.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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