



PRAY AND ACT FOR PEACE



Be Present In Our Worry

Loving God,
Answering the door,
I see worry in their faces,
 uncertainty in the way they stand,
 a large bundle of papers,
 documenting a life,
 clutched to the chest.

Walking up three flights,
we talk about the weather,
 or the construction in the street,
 who they have come to see
 their names.
I look at them and smile.

Be present with the men and women
 caught in a tangle of financial woes over a house.
 A lost job. Good decisions turned bad.
 A need to refinance a loan that helped a grandson go to college.
 A car repair. Reduced hours at work.
 Poor decisions. A stubborn lender.
 Or one who can't find the paperwork faxed three days ago.
Some have ways of living that are hard to leave behind
Even to save a home.

In these difficult days,
 be present with the housing counselors
 who sort through the documents,
 the options and ways of living that need changing,
and then talk with the lenders who can't always just change the loan.

I sense your grace is present in these meetings
 because often I see or hear homeowners leave
 more relaxed and cheerful
 with the start of a plan
 a way forward,
Even when a home will be lost.

I give thanks to you for this.
Amen.

Melonie Buller is a member of the Leadership Team for the Peace and Justice Support Network. She works for a nonprofit housing counseling agency in Columbus, Ohio with many people coming for help with foreclosure issues.