

June 13, 2019

Dear Kevin,

I am mindful as we approach Father's Day this Sunday that you will for the first time experience this as a memorial day *for* your father rather than a celebratory day *with* your father. I want to offer you a prayer from the Psalms and from our own *Book of Common Prayer*.

Psalm 73:23-24—*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 688

Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
You will guide me by your counsel,
and afterwards receive me with glory.

Initially, it sounds as if the Psalmist could be talking about a loving parent, holding him by the right hand and guiding him. And then we realize that he is praying to the God and Father of all, who also cares for our *parents*, holding, guiding and ultimately receiving them with glory into the company of saints in light.

The following prayer helps articulate the challenging but beautiful assurance we have of entrusting all who are dear to us into God's care. I have included it here as a fitting memorial prayer for you on this Sunday:

A prayer for those we love—*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 831

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lastly, I want to note that you are the finest memorial to your father that any father could hope for. You are the living, breathing result of his labor and love, and you are keeping the faith of our fathers—not as a possession to be hoarded, but as a gift to be shared. For these and all other blessings, thanks be to God our Father, through Jesus Christ.

God bless you,

Furman +