

Psalm 90:17 - May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands.

Today we have the privilege of blessing the hands of those who work at this hospital, both as staff and as volunteers. Have you ever thought of the significance of hands? They bring life into the world, literally catching it to keep it from falling. They clean, caress and comfort. They make it possible to feed ourselves and others. They caution and correct - the hand of justice. They help and they hold. Their touch heals. They praise the Lord!

But have you ever thought of the individual components of a hand? Five fingers that have different functions and strengths. As a pianist and harpist, I know what they can and cannot do. I don't require of my thumb the work that my index finger is meant to do. I don't ask my pinkie to carry a jug of milk. Most of the time, these fingers dwell quite peaceably together. But if one is sprained, cut or even removed, the entire hand suffers.

The hand is representative of the Body of Christ, with each member having different gifts and callings. We are meant to work together, assisting one another in the midst of our own strengths and weaknesses. No one is better than another; all are good and necessary for the work we are called to do: to glorify God and bring His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

It is God who has created us; it is God who calls and equips us with the gifts we need to serve and glorify Him. Today, know that He has formed you in His image. By His blood, He has purchased and cleansed you. Through His Holy Spirit, He has made you holy and whole. He has given you clean hands and a pure heart. Lift your hands in praise and worship the Lord. He is worthy of our praise.