

Valentine's Prayer

At the entrance to Tesco's a woman stands
with a collecting tin and a box of fabric daffodils
reminding us that life is not always
a bed of roses or a box of chocolates.

So as we gather this morning
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult
due to illness and side effects from toxic treatments
or waiting for the results of the latest tests.

As we pass the advertising hording
we see a heart-shaped chocolate box
with a boxing glove instead of a chocolate
reminding us that romantic love is not all it is cracked up to be.

So as we gather this morning
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult
where relationships are broken or full of pain
or where our search for love leaves us feeling rejected and alone.

In the florists we see a loved one's favourite flower
or a wreath of white flowers that spell out a name
or a son's giant sized photo on the side of a pub
the words "our hero" surrounded by red poppies.

So as we gather this morning
we pause to remember those who will find today difficult
those whose loved ones are no longer with us
but are held in your eternal embrace.

And God dries our tears
and smiling reaches out to take our hand
to soothe and caress our broken lives
and slowly make us laugh again.

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