

## A prayer for all those affected by the California wild fires



### **A cupid statue stands in the rubble of a home destroyed by the Eaton Fire on January 08, 2025 in Altadena, California.**

Theologian Diana Butler Bass wrote in “The Cottage” on 8.1.25: “The fires burning in Los Angeles County are burning in densely populated urban areas. These aren’t isolated communities. They are large neighborhoods and major cities, significant and historic places in the history of Los Angeles, vital to the economy of the entire region.”

She urges us to pray for all those in this region whom she describes as “on edge, unsure of what will happen next, frightened, and, most likely, grieving.” Let’s pray for our North American sisters and brothers.

*Our God and God of our fathers and mothers,  
As the flames burn, wreaking havoc upon our forests, our homes,  
our fire fighters, our sense of security,  
We turn to You for comfort and support.  
Help us to differentiate between flames of destruction  
and light that shows us Your way.  
We know that flames can destroy.*

*Keep us far from apocalyptic thoughts,  
for we know that You ask us to care for this world,  
an awesome responsibility.  
We also know that we can seek You in the flames.  
In a burning bush, You spoke to Moses, sending him to lead your people out of slavery,  
In a pillar of fire, You led your people through the wilderness to the Promised Land,*

*Be with us now, these smoke and fire-filled days.  
Draw us close to those harmed by these flames, hearing their cries, responding to their needs.  
Lead us to support those who fight the fires, who care for the displaced, who bring healing to those suffering.  
Though our attention spans seem so short, may we be slow to forget those in danger.*

*Adapted from a prayer written by Rabbi Paul Kipnes.*