PRAYER

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Uttered or unexpressed, The motion of a hidden fire That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh, The falling of a tear, The upward glancing of an eye, When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech That infant lips can try; Prayer the sublimest strains that reach The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice, Returning from his ways; While angels in their songs rejoice, And cry "Behold, he prays!"

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, The Christian's native air, His watchword at the gates of death: He enters Heaven with prayer.

O Thou by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way! The path of prayer Thyself hast trod; Lord! teach us how to pray.