



## Irreverent Prayers: Talking to God When You're Seriously Sick

**Elizabeth Felicetti**

**Samantha Vincent-Alexander**

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Episcopal priests Elizabeth Felicetti and Samantha Vincent-Alexander's authentic, atypical devotional *Irreverent Prayers* includes petitions for permission to be "pissed off" and to be rescued from the "platitudes of well-meaning loved ones."

Emphasizing that the Bible includes innumerable examples of pious people telling God just how they feel (as with the despairing psalmist, the angry Hebrew Bible prophets, and an exasperated Jesus in the gospels), this book declares that those facing serious illnesses should also feel free to express their anger and anxiety to God. Thus, Felicetti and Vincent-Alexander, having faced severe illnesses themselves, share resonant, fearless, and discerning meditations borne of personal knowledge. Their brief, barbed prayers address difficult topics including cancer, life-threatening infections, and the loneliness of long hospitalizations. Their prayers, emphasizing resilience, also include dry humor, as when they ask God to please "tell whoever is praying for patience to stop. Just stop. I am set with patience."

*Irreverent Prayers* is a cheeky text whose entries demonstrate the healing power of brave, honest faith.

KRISTEN RABE (July / August 2024)

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