

**Sydenham Street United
Church
82 Sydenham Street
Kingston Ontario
K7L 3H4**

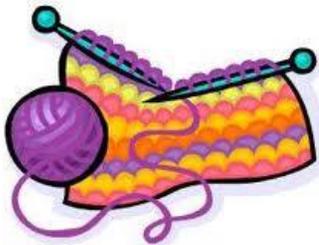
Prayer Shawl Ministry

[http:// www.sydenhamstreet.ca](http://www.sydenhamstreet.ca)

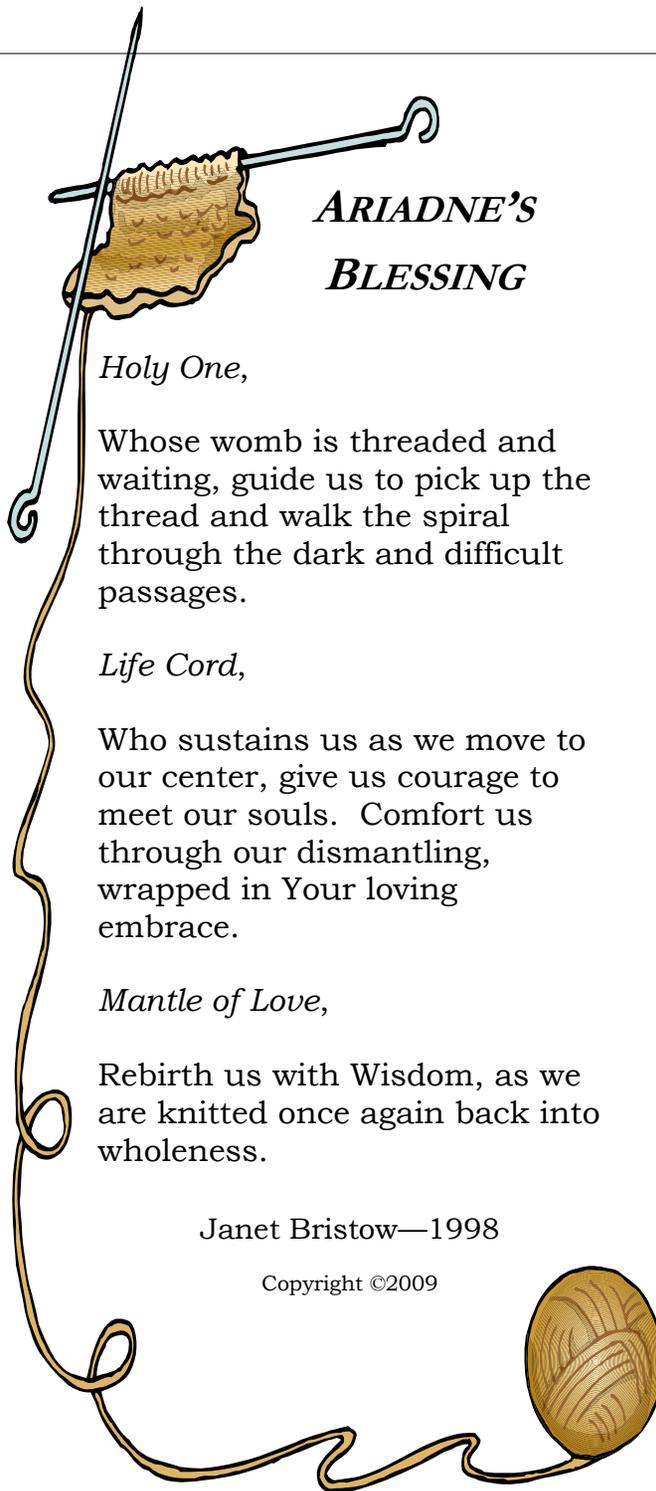
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Begin...Belong...Become



For further information
and to obtain knitting
instructions Please visit
www.shawlministry.com



ARIADNE'S BLESSING

Holy One,

Whose womb is threaded and
waiting, guide us to pick up the
thread and walk the spiral
through the dark and difficult
passages.

Life Cord,

Who sustains us as we move to
our center, give us courage to
meet our souls. Comfort us
through our dismantling,
wrapped in Your loving
embrace.

Mantle of Love,

Rebirth us with Wisdom, as we
are knitted once again back into
wholeness.

Janet Bristow—1998

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*Prayer Shawl
Ministry of
Sydenham Street
United Church*



www.Sydenhamstreet.ca

*“You created every part of me,
knitting me in my
Mother’s womb.
For such handiwork,
I praise you. Awesome this
great wonder!”*

Psalm 139:13-14

About The Shawls

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in this program of applied Feminist Spirituality under the direction of Professor Miriam Therese Winter, MMS.

Care and the love of knitting (and crochet) have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. The knitter begins each shawl with prayers for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. When the shawl is completed it is offered a final ritual before being sent along its way.

As this gift has been sent along, some recipients have continued the kindness by making one themselves and passing it onto someone in need.

Thus, the blessing is rippled from person to person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God!

*"You created every part of me,
knitting me in my
Mother's womb.
For such handiwork,
I praise you. Awesome this
great wonder!"*

Psalm 139:13-14

Besides knit and crochet; the shawls can be woven, sewn, quilted, machine knitted, etc.

"Shawls ... made for centuries
universal and embracing,
symbolic of an inclusive,
unconditionally loving, God.

They wrap, enfold,
comfort, cover, give
solace, mother, hug,
shelter and beautify.

Those who have
received these shawls
have been uplifted and
affirmed, as if given wings
to fly above their troubles..."



Janet Bristow -1998
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Some uses for the shawl

Undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss, during bereavement, prayer or meditation, commitment or marriage ceremonies, birthing, nursing a baby; as a bridal shower gift; leading ritual; first menses or croning rites of passage, during an illness and recovery; ministering to others or just socializing...There are endless possibilities!

To make a shawl personal, the giver or the recipient may want to adorn the shawl with beads, shells, feathers and charms. A blessing or ritual maybe offered when the gift is presented.

Symbolism in the Prayer Shawl

The repeating pattern of three in the prayer shawl patterns is representative of the Christian Trinity (Creator-Christ-Spirit) and is also an important number in many other faiths, including Buddhism, Taoism, and Hinduism; and in many cultures, including Chinese and Egyptian

SHAWL
HEARTFELT GIFT
WARMING EMBRACING COMFORTING
REST WITHIN ITS SOFTNESS

Alice Wansor
Melville, New York

**Sydenham Street United
Church**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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