

Holy God, our friend, as we start the new school year, we bring our hope and dreams and fears and joys to you so that we may feel your peace. We prepare our backpacks so that we have what we need for when we're in school. Now help us prepare ourselves for all the wonderful things in store this year. Hear now our prayers, Lord.

May these crayons help us to recognize  
the rainbow of diversity in all whom you've created.

May these pencils remind us  
that you're always writing words of love on our hearts.

May these tablets keep us connected to our classwork,  
but also remind us to remain connected to our classmates, too.

May this lunchbox encourage us  
to invite a new friend to sit by us in the lunchroom,  
and remind us to make sure everyone has enough to eat.

May this eraser be an example for us  
that mistakes happen, but God's love will never leave us.

May this paper help us open our minds  
to all the new things we'll learn and,  
may it provide us space to compose  
our words of kindness, peace, hope, and joy for all of God's children.

When we feel the weight of this backpack that we carry,  
may we never forget that your Holy Spirit is always with us.

And, God, when we zip everything into this backpack to use at school each day, let us feel secure that you're there with us, holding everything in place, and making sure that we know that with You, we have everything we need.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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*Blessing and art by the Rev. Katie Barrett Todd*

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