

Covid-19

A Collection of Thoughts and Prayers

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart, bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.
Amen.

-New Zealand Prayer Book 747

“Prayer for Handwashing in the time of COVID-19”

by Rev. Sharon Fennema

(inspired by Dori Midnight, via Adrienne Marie Brown)

this water is sacred
these hands are sacred
all that these hands will touch is sacred
this cleansing is sacred because
the well-being of all creatures is sacred
this moment of washing away all that
does not serve is sacred
this resistance to fear is sacred
this way of tending to the most vulnerable I encounter is sacred
this act of care for myself and others is sacred because
touch is sacred and
all that these hands will touch is sacred
these hands are sacred
this water is sacred"

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of all comfort, grant us we pray, through your Word and through your Holy Spirit, a firm, happy and grateful faith whereby we may readily overcome this and every trial, and at length realize that it is the embodiment of truth when Jesus, himself said, “Be of good cheer”. In the world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!” – John 16:33

“There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”
(Romans 8:39)

Prayer: As together in community we face a time when we need perspective.
For a pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find
ways to

be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen. -- Cameron Bellm shared by Randy Y-T

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.

Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar 3/11/20 shared by Kyle Lefler

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. LBW P. 137 (Morning Prayer)