

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Thank you, O God... We're still here, even as the world is in turmoil right now... thank you... What purpose is there for us, O God?... what purpose is there for us given what we're living through now and how the world will have changed as a result of it?... You call us to change, O God... But like the crowds called by Jesus' vision of comprehensive love, change is something for others more than it is something for us. If only so many people and circumstances were different, our lives and life as a whole would be incredible...

Thank you for not letting us off the hook, O God... Thank you for loving us enough to shake us up... to awaken us for the need for change to begin with us... Thank you for revealing to us that your will for our fullness and peace must involve our commitment and responsibility as agents of your service and care for this world, beginning with those around us... thank you...

We continue to love through our praying as much as our doing, O God... and so we pray...

We pray for those who have the extra burden of family to care for who are vulnerable physically, mentally and emotionally during this season of Covid-19...

We pray for those on the front lines of the battle who have become sick themselves as a result...

We pray for those who have lost loved ones to the illness...

We pray for those with family in long term care homes and those with dementia, who cannot be visited...

We pray for those ill in hospitals and those dying who feel terribly lonely and isolated, even as hospital staff are overwhelmed and overrun...

We pray for those nations, like Italy, Spain and the U.S among others, where the sickness is afflicting far greater numbers than here in Canada...

We pray for those with family in parts of the world where medical care is highly deficient...

We pray for children at home and parents and those for whom learning out of school is going to be a challenge in so many ways...

We pray for those who have brought loved ones home to be cared for because they are less vulnerable than in a hospital or care facility...

We can keep praying, O God, because the situations of challenge are so many... and this is also not inclusive of the bigger issues of poverty and homelessness, abuse and torture, war and displacement of hundreds of thousands the world over... We pray thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, O God... but in times like these, we can feel the distance between heaven and earth so monumentally...

Come upon us, O God... spread your peace upon us... give us assurance that we are yours now and forever... Give us assurance that even as we are distant from many of those we love present and past, that somehow your love binds us in ways physical distance and death cannot ultimately separate...

We need faith in this time... we need hope... and we need that much more the kind of love that is fierce, tenacious, enduring and committed to finding new ways to spread itself faster and fuller than the virus...

Finally, we take a moment in silence, to name before you those special persons we are carrying in our hearts at this time...

For healing we pray... for new life and growth and blessing, we pray... for peace, we pray... And we make this prayer ours in the name of Jesus... Amen.