

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Creator God, you know our story, even when it has yet to be written... even when the ending is yet to be revealed... You know it and see it all... May we find some comfort in your embrace of love even as so much is unknown and uncertain... Thank you... We recognize that this is a time that is unprecedented, O God... this is a time of turning points, of change... change that is imposed on us and change that we will have to make in response to whatever the 'new normal' will be... May you be that constant companion on our journey, O God... may we travel not alone, and not just with others, but with you, the ground of our being, our creator and lord, in communion... Thank you for whatever assurance we may find in such faith, and thank you for whatever motivation for blessing our world such faith can instill in us...

And as we build up our faith and hope in what's possible in relationship with you, trusting what will come to be in our lives even as so much is uncertain... we want to become ever more people who are moved at our core by love and care, compassion, generosity and gratitude...

Hear us now, as we take a moment to pause in silence, to allow our hearts to express our gratitude for all those reasons and persons that make our life both possible and beautiful...

We also pray for the world around us, O God... For those in Fort MacMurray and elsewhere in the country, where spring thaw, compounded by an ever warming climate, is devastating communities with flood waters... May we be encouraged by how our nation and world have been mobilized to fight Covid-19, in how we can also be mobilized to fight climate change when we work together... May our love for the green pastures and still waters also become our path to restoration of soul, O God...

We continue to pray for the communities and families in Nova Scotia affected directly by the mass murder of so many innocent lives full of promise and goodness... Yea, though we walk through the darkest valley, O God, and even as we fear evil, may a renewed faith in your shepherdly presence among us mobilize us to reach out to those around us, providing comfort and assurance in our care for them...

We continue to pray for all the ways our lives continue to be affected in this time of Covid-19... for those affected directly through their work and service as front-line workers and essential service providers... for those with vulnerable health... for those caring for others, young and old... for those feeling afraid and insecure financially, emotionally and physically in terms of violence and abuse at home... for those dependent on others in ways that create risk and fear... for those impoverished and on the street and extra vulnerable to contracting the virus and dying... for those in buildings and care homes where the virus has spread...

There are so many ways we are all affected, O God, and some of us are that much more ill-equipped to survive this time... May your goodness and mercy truly find a way to follow us all the days of our lives, and may we experience in ever new ways what it means to live in your sphere of communion love our whole life long...

Finally, we offer some personal prayer in silence, for those persons specific to us we are carrying especially heavily in this time... we name them before you now...

We pray for healing, however healing may be experienced... we pray for new life and growth and the seeds of transformation... we pray for comfort and an ever deeper experience of your peace... In Jesus' name; Amen.