

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Awesome God of miracle and wonder... We thank you for those times and seasons of life, where the miracle and wonder that life can be finds us. Thank you. Even as the world around us can feel surreal at times, and fearful and uncertain, you remind us that from beginning to end we are ultimately yours... Thank you. Even as life can have it's difficulties and challenges that are sometimes quite traumatic... we thank you for those times when we are given the courage and inspiration to rise up beyond our victimization to something like transformation. Thank you. Even as we know life is a journey with ups as well as downs, we thank you that you are with us as we pass through the valley of the shadow of death, so that we can rise up to the hills and sing again... Thank you...

Give us faith again, O God... give us hope, not hope in some fantasy way in denial of hard realities, but hope that we can make it through and taste the sweetness of life again... and most of all, give us love in a new way, O God... even as we know love in all its beauty in so many ways and so many relationships, O God, as we move through the darkness into light again, there are elements of newness of love that make life worth living in a whole new way... Thank you...

And out of reservoirs of love and gratitude, we offer up heart prayers for the world around us, O God... We continue to pray for all those affected in so many different ways in this time of Covid-19... even as we may look forward to the easing of restrictions, we are also fearful and cautious as we realize the dangers and possible sickness and death that may be on the horizon attending the risks of easing...

We continue to pray for the families and communities in Nova Scotia, the families of the victims of the helicopter crash, the communities affected by massive spring flooding and for all those in the world increasingly impacted by the effects of the climate crisis in terms of floods, fires, droughts and other weather events...

We pray for all those who have had to put their health on hold awaiting surgery at this time... those who have not been able to bury their dead... those who cannot imagine what the future will look like for their employment or business or career... For those in long term care facilities and their families for whom things continue to be fearful and uncertain... for those on the streets or at home who carry fear and threat of violence... for those suffering racism, misogyny, and other phobias and isms because they are different and vulnerable... May your mercy, grace, courage and transformation sweep through all those who experience this time as a time of victimization, O God...

We also pray for those among us who are carrying distress for family and friends in critical condition in body, mind or spirit, O God... We pray for Elvira Santa Ana, Aunt to Mary Ann

Kemp, in hospital in Texas undergoing a blood transfusion and dialysis... We also take a moment in silence, O God, to name before you all those we are carrying especially heavily in our hearts at this time...

We are praying for healing, O God... we are praying for transformation and growth and learning... and we are praying for inner peace, letting go and surrender... In Jesus' name... Amen.