

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

We have come, O God, we are here... in front of a screen or listening on audio... We have come, O God and we are here because we have been seeking spiritual nourishment, guidance and faith in this time we are living in. Thank you. Thank you that we are not alone. Whether we can feel you present with us and among us, or whether there are times we feel more alone, we also thank you for those around us whose loving presence and commitment to us mediate your love. Thank you.

We continue to pray for faith, O God... Grant us the desire and the discipline to create space in us and around us so that we pay greater and more sustained attention to what you may be speaking to us... Grant us greater courage to be open to others and to possibilities for our lives we have yet to fully entertain... Grant us greater grace and confidence to risk trusting, trusting with discernment, yet trusting with some commitment too... trusting the long-term benefits rather than being impatient for quick results...

In faith, we also seek to pay attention, be open and trust your love as we name some of the pain and fear in our world, O God...

Even as all our focus is on Covid-19 and ourselves in the midst of it all, O God, we are disturbed by reports of how neglect for big problems in the world are making them worse. Millions more will die of hunger, O God, aid to regions hit by fires, floods and cyclone storms will be more sparse... We think of all the desperate and poor of India and Bangladesh hardest hit, for example, O God... Sustain them, O God... console them, O God... feed them with some hope, O God.

We continue to pray for those most vulnerable in our own midst in this pandemic time, O God... families of those who have died, those who are dying, and those whose health is made ever more vulnerable because their health situations have been put on hold... We continue to pray for businesses and all those whose employment has not only been affected, but for whom the future is a big question mark... We pray for families who will be affected by school closure till the fall and for camps which cannot open this summer... We pray about the fact that even as easing of restrictions may begin in various ways and for various sectors, there is much fear and caution which we all carry collectively as added stress to all else... Grant us mercy with each other, O God, grant us hope and grant us some peace.

We also grieve as a nation, O God... for those who die, often women and those identified as sexual or gender minorities, immigrants and those visibly not white, as hate and violence are ramped up in stressful times... We pray for victims of crashes of those serving our nation – for the 6 crewmembers of our Canadian military helicopter... and for Snowbird Pilot Captain Jenn Casey's family and squadron... Console them with your love and peace, O God, and our

gratitude, as we also offer it to all those who support us in this time in hospitals, homes, public and essential services...

We also offer some special prayer requests, O God... For Michael, son of Glenn Miller, in hospital awaiting diagnosis for serious illness... For Deb and the Stanbury family in the recent death of beloved Aunt Pauline... We also take a moment to name all those, near and far, in places of the world even more vulnerable than our own, and those close to us in proximity and physically fine but not so in other ways, persons we are especially carrying in our hearts at this time...

We are praying for healing, O God, yes, we are, in all ways healing energy may flow... We are praying for growth in this time and beyond, O God, and we are praying for an ever deeper experience of your peace... And we make this our prayer in Jesus' name... Amen.