

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

God of new Life,
Christ came speaking words of peace and understanding. Thank you for strengthening our faith and empowering us to live with hope and trust in you day by day.

We are grateful that you give us courage to face our fears and struggles, patience to endure moments when the way ahead is not clear, and resilience in the face of new realities.

Like the disciples, we are sometimes afraid, sometimes full of doubt. But in your extravagant generosity, your boundless love, you appear to us in our fear and love us in our doubts and grant us the oceans of your peace.
Thank you for loving us as we are.

Loving God, we pray against the fear of this pandemic. May we be continually reminded that you have not given us a spirit of fear, but of hope.

We pray for the many medical professionals who are tirelessly serving those impacted by the virus. Strengthen them, God, and bring them your peace and protection.

We pray for wisdom for our leaders in government, at all levels, to contain the virus from spreading while caring for the safety of their people.

We pray for those who have lost their livelihood or income and are suffering from financial loss during this time of crisis.

We pray for all of us who are isolated or quarantined. Guide us as we continue to develop a new form of "normal."

With social distancing being practiced and social events all cancelled, God we ask you to raise up a new chapter of building meaningful and deeper relationships with one another.

Loving Christ, it is your presence that removes apprehension and erases uncertainties: so come, and grant those in our midst who are unsure, who are unable to let go of all control, your presence & peace.

Lord, we pray for the loved ones of people who have passed away because of this virus. Comfort each of them, with your unfailing love and grace. We think, in particular, to those in our own congregation who have friends and acquaintances who have died from this virus. We pray alongside Christy Smith, whose close colleague Diane Chin recently succumbed to Covid-19. We pray also for Diane's daughter who has now lost not only her mother but grandmother

to this terrible virus. Bring her and others who knew Diane and her family comfort in this time of terrible pain and grief.

We offer other special prayer requests, O God, for people who have touched our lives and who need you in this time:

For Angel Power's mother, who has had treatments postponed due to Covid, the outcome of which is creating extra anxiety and worry. Bring them your peace. Ensure their care as these days of waiting and uncertainty continue.

We pray for the family of a colleague of David Murray's—Christopher Boguslawski—whose daughter Natalia recently died of cystic fibrosis. Natalia was adored by her children, husband, brother, parents, grandmother and friends and we pray for comfort and support for them all during this painful time.

We pray for Jeffrey Epule, Kome's brother in Cameroon, who struggles against both civil strife and this health care crisis.

We pray for all those we know in retirement and special care facilities where Covid-19 has been discovered among residents. May the wisdom and care of the staff and nurses keep all those who live in these buildings safe from potential spread.

Finally, we lift before you a long-time member of this congregation, Lord: Susanna Prentice. Susanna died this past week and we pray for the consolation and care of her family who now grieve her death in a time when gathering in some fashion to celebrate her life is made ever more difficult. We remember Susanna and celebrate the amazing gifts she had to share, particularly her love of music.

We also take a moment in silence, to name before you, O God, all those we are carrying in our hearts in a personal way at this time...

Grant to all of us, living Christ,
renewed faith, great courage, and your boundless peace.
In the name of our risen Saviour we pray, Amen.