

“For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.” - Habakkuk 2:14 (New Living Translation)

**INVOCATION (Pastor Tom Deviney, Bethany United Methodist Church)**

Our Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you and glorify you in this season of celebrating Your Resurrection. In the midst of this Covid 19 pandemic, we need your light and your life to shine brightly in our world. Yet, we confess that we have remained quiet when we should have spoken. We have been fearful instead of courageous. We have been anxious instead of trusting. We have allowed this pandemic to be the bowl that covers Your light.

Forgive us and fill us afresh with new life. Like Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus, let our hearts burn within us in Your presence. Like the convicted Thomas, let us proclaim, “My Lord and my God!” Let our lives reflect Peter’s affirmation, “Lord you know everything; you know that I love you.”

We come today into Your presence to lift up our prayers for our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our campuses, our churches, our entertainment and media, our military, our police and first responders, and our government. Come, Holy Spirit, and speak Your truth into our hearts and through our mouths. In this time of prayer, let Your powerful presence change each of them from “ours” to “Yours.”

We ask this in the powerful name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR GOVERNMENT (Scott McIntosh)**

Almighty God, we recognize You as Creator and Governor of all that has been and is being created. Your goodness is what makes you great. This is our prayer for those who govern we as a people.

May goodness be received and reflected in their desires to serve all of us. And may they see that as a genuine requirement and part of their positions in our society. We ask You, O God, to remind each and every elected and appointed servant to recognize their own need to depend on you for knowledge. And that they might be humble enough to recognize that the greatness of everything and knowledge comes from You.

May they be as wise as Solomon when confronted by two or more opposing views and having heard those views have the courage to do what is right not what is expedient. Many will come before our government officials with both true and false claims, suggestions, and ways of prosperity. Give each, from our city councils to our Governor, to the halls of Congress and as far as the White House the conviction to reject all council that will violate righteousness.

May each in their turn have the capacity to resist any and all pressures from friend and foe alike to violate their own conscience. Let them be, or become, people of prayer and of the Word. For their daily strength, their wisdom, and their courage.

For those from our city councils to our state officials to those in the halls of Congress and the White House, may they bring dignity not divisiveness, honor not rancor, trustworthiness not faithlessness, integrity not disdain to the offices that they hold. We ask that they be examples to all the people who watch their lives what goodness and gentleness look like.

And remind them daily that they are accountable to You Almighty God for the decisions they make on behalf of their constituency. We make these pleas to You, the Creator and Giver of life. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR FIRST RESPONDERS (John Weller)**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and forever. You, O’ Lord, are the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega, indeed Lord, you are the Great I Am. All honor, glory, power, and dominion over creation belong to you, Heavenly Father.

We come to you, magnificent God, humbly and with great fear and respect. We acknowledge our sin before you. We confess our inability to live in harmony with our neighbors, and we confess our inability to love you, Merciful God, above all.

We thank you for hearing all our prayers, and we know that you do hear them God, because you love us. You love us so much that you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to show us the path, and to die on the cross in our place. We do not deserve the Grace that you give to us but, Heavenly Father, we thank you for the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ. Almighty God, you have shown us such great mercy and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions. We thank you, Glorious God, for the gift of your divine mercy. We pray that you enable us to live together in peace and with great forgiveness. Lord we come to you with our prayers during a time of worldwide pandemic.

Hear the prayers that we are sending to you today, this very hour, at this very moment. Lord, we are afflicted with this Corona virus. People are living in fear and with great concern. People are dying, and the economy is in jeopardy. O Lord, we are turning to you for your great and steadfast comfort. We take great relief in the words you spoke as they are recorded in Matthew 6:31-34, “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Lord, we see that you have raised up people who step forward in times such as these. People who show up to work on the front lines of fires, car wrecks, explosions, people who battle those ensnared by dismay or evil, people who treat victims of trauma and medical problems, and yes, even the Corona virus. When others are sheltering in place, these firefighters, police officers, and medics put on a uniform and step up to their duty to protect us at all hours of the day.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about continually doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people: continue, this His gracious work among us; cheer, heal, and sanctify the sick and the wounded. We pray that you grant to physicians, surgeons, and nurses’ wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; and guide their hands as they seek to do the good work of healing those that are afflicted. Holy God send down your blessing on all who labor to prevent suffering and to forward your purposes of love.

O Lord, our magnificent Savior, enable them to do their duty with honor and courage. Prepare and protect these men and women in the performance of their duties. Lord, bring them home, shift after shift, to be with their families. Protect them, Gracious God, from the effects of their sacrificial service, protect their wives and husbands, protect their marriages, protect their children. O Lord our God in Heaven, protect and provide for these heroes of the public who place themselves in danger just by showing up to work. Lord, your Holy Bible tells us in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” These men and women, who come from many different backgrounds, are showing us what great love is through their great sacrifices.

We pray now Lord, that you sanctify us and them. That you enable us to take up our cross and follow Christ Jesus. We pray that we live with good courage, holding to what is steadfast and true. Help us to hold what is good and beautiful in this, your created order, O God. Bless these men and women who are our first responders, our physicians, nurses, and our hospitals. May the grace of our God strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, heal the afflicted, honor all men and women. May we all love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. May God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit preserve and keep you this day and forevermore. Amen.

Almighty Father, we thank You that You have heard the prayers we have uttered. We thank You that You have breathed Your life into each of us and into each of these prayers. We know that Your Word does not return to You empty, but that It accomplishes that which You purpose and succeeds in that for which You send it. So, we claim the accomplishment of Your Word. May Your Glory shine and overcome the darkness of this world. May Your Grace restore hope to the hopeless. May Your Love drive out hurt and hatred. May Your Wisdom replace our folly. May Your Peace overwhelm injustice and war. May Your Life overcome sickness and death. May Your promise be fulfilled that, “…the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

We pray in the name and power of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR MILITARY (Manuel Perez, SGM USARMY NG TXARNG)**

We thank God, the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to be a beacon of light around the world and a blessing of grace and mercy to others. Join me as we pray for the Armed Forces. Let us bow our heads.

Our Lord God Almighty, we acknowledge you and give you all the honor, praise, and glory this hour. We know your presence is with us during this dilemma. “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.” We see the light. Jesus reminds us “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Today men and women in uniform work to defend and support other countries around the world to include our great nation, the United States of America. In God we trust. These are soldiers who volunteered to serve knowing the cost to their very own life. Jesus completed the ultimate sacrifice as an example to us all. “No one takes it away from me. But I lay it down of myself. While our soldiers defend our borders, we have the liberty to enjoy life. While we sleep, they are our watchmen. We find peace and teamwork to rebuild our country. While we create new technologies and innovative technologies, our soldiers cease the enemy from rebuilding a future. A future that now involves the Space Force. It is through the armed forces that democracy lives and the Gospel is taken by free will.

Our Lord God, give us the ability to accept what we cannot change, the strength to see another day, the grace to pay it forward to the next generation. A generation of new believers to face tomorrow with optimism, charity, faith, and protected by the blood of the Lamb. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR BUSINESSES (Bill Floyd)**

Father in Heaven, we thank you for all you have provided us. We thank you for taking care of us and supplying all our needs. You created the heavens and the earth and everything on it. You give breath and life to all who walk the earth. We praise your name.

Father, today we pray during the Covid -19 pandemic you will sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions. We also ask during this time for guidance for the business leaders in our city, our state and our country. We ask that you give them wisdom to make decisions about the companies they lead. We pray they flourish and grow. Open incredible doors of opportunity so everyone will know it was you God who blessed them. We ask your spirit of wisdom, understanding and power rest on each business leader, investor and entrepreneur. Lord, we ask as our business leaders walk upright, no good thing will be withheld from them, and they will glorify your name. We pray every heart will be turned to you and each person will discover their purpose in you.

**PRAYER FOR CHURCHES (James Crabtree)**

Father God, we thank You for sending Your Son, that whomsoever believes and calls upon your name, shall be redeemed from the penalty and the power of sin. Thank You Lord that through that redemption, that all Believers are joined together by the Holy Spirit into one spiritual family in the Earth, that You call The Church with Jesus Christ being the Head.

In Matthew 16, Jesus declared that He, Himself is building this Church in the Earth and that the very gates, the very government of Hell cannot and will not defeat the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank You Lord that the evil one does not have the authority or the ability to keep The Church from fulfilling YOUR plans and purposes! Your Church is a victorious Church now and forever! Lord we pray today Lord, this National Day of Prayer, that every Believer will press into You in a new way! Stir Your People Oh God………..stir US here today…………..We humble ourselves today Lord and we ask for revival in Your Church. Pour out fresh fire…pour out Your Holy Spirit on us, on your Church in America in the name of Jesus! Oh God, work in us in new ways, Lord, draw us, draw us, draw us deeper into You. Stir our hearts oh God, revive us, return us to our first love for You that We might then go deeper in You than We have ever been.

We pray that all across our Nation that You will pour out a new supernatural hunger for You, for Your presence and for your power! We confess our need of YOU today as Your People oh God! Lord, we are Your Church. We are the carriers of Your Gospel. We are the ones that carry Your love and Your power, and we ask today for fresh BOLDNESS to proclaim Your Gospel to our neighbors and to our nation! Pour out the spirit of revival in Your Church oh God! Deliver us from the fear of man and fill our hearts with zeal for You, that we might make You known in this nation like never before. May we share our testimony of Your love and life changing power with those around us in ways we never have before! We pray today that You would fill our hearts with love for You and for those around us. We say to You today Oh God………….here are WE,,,use US !!!!

**PRAYER FOR EDUCATION (Amy Hagen)**

Dear Eternal God,

Bless all schools, colleges, universities and trade schools especially during these unforeseen times. We pray that you would wrap them up in your love. Thank you for all our education leaders who give us their talents to expand wisdom and discovery to all they serve. We thank them for their hard work and dedication, and we pray that they may continue to work in support for all education. We pray that our commitment to educating all will strengthen pathways for quality education for everyone. May you God continue to bring fresh inspiration to everyone’s studies. May each moment be filled with your light.

We pray to you through your son, Jesus Christ, our Teacher, our Lord and Savior.

**PRAYER FOR MEDIA (Ed LaBelle)**

Dear Holy Father, you blessed America when You founded this great nation and gave us freedom of the press. We lift up to you all who work in media, journalism and news in our nation. This includes those who work in the traditional print media such as newspapers and periodicals. And it includes those who work in the electronic media of the internet, websites of the print and cable new programs, social media such as Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok and so much more.

Lord, we lift up all who work in Media and ask your Holy Spirit to wrap loving arms around each and every one of them who are made in your image. We acknowledge that you have given them this talent to share knowledge freely and quickly in this information age to hordes of followers and searchers. Instill in their minds your word, “But test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 (ESV). Lord we ask you to instill in them wisdom, discernment, and courage to report the news without bias or preconceived notions.

Father, we ask that you tug at their hearts when they first wake up each day and draw them closer to you. We ask that your Holy Spirit whisper your Truth in their ear during the day as they are typing away on the keyboard or touchscreen. We ask that you bless them with good health, energy and vigor to handle the demands of the constant news cycle. And we ask that You change their hearts so that they can become the instruments of your good news to build and strengthen the character of our nation!

And we ask for your special protections on those who dare go against the one-sided mentality of their news organization to report unbiased news. We know that partisan politics and special interest group are very influential in many newsrooms which slants the way news is presented. We ask you to break these bonds which sow division in our land so that the unvarnished truth may be presented for it is written, “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” Ephesians 5:11 (ESV).

Father we know you can accomplish great things from those in Media who are professed Christians. Enable them to proclaim through their work that “You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:22 (ESV). We ask that they are protected and insulated from the pervasive venom and hatred of social media that can create a media frenzy for those who dare share their Christian viewpoint.

And finally, Lord, shower all who work in Media with your unending love so that they may be a blessing to America. Make them a force to unify this nation and bring us together so that we as a people will “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (NIV).

**PRAYER FOR FAMILIES (Pastor Joel Lowry)**

Father, thank you we have the right and privilege to approach you as our Father. We thank you, Jesus, that you paid the price for us to be adopted into the family of God. We thank you, Holy Spirit, that you carry the spirit of adoption by which we can approach God as Abba Father.

Father, we thank you that family has always been your heart and your plan for humanity from the beginning. We acknowledge that your Kingdom is coming and your will is being done on earth as it is in heaven has always been family business, and we choose to take our rightful place as your children.

We declare in this season, in the midst of shutdowns, quarantines and social distancing that you are restoring the centrality and health of the family as you clear our lives of idols and distractions that have taken priority over the family.

We declare that you are returning the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents.

We acknowledge you, Father, as the only Perfect Father, and declare a release from the expectation of perfection from our earthly fathers and mothers.

We declare that now is the time for the return of prodigals, both prodigal children and prodigal parents to return to God and to their families.

We intercede on behalf of those who have been wounded by family and declare that as you are restoring family and you are binding up the broken-hearted.

We thank you, Father, that you are the Father of the fatherless, the one who provides safety and security to the widow and the orphan, the one who puts the lonely in family.

 Holy Spirit we recognize that you have changed us in this season. We thank you for your conviction and your pruning. We thank you for the increased time with our families. As we find a new normal would you lead us forward that we never return to who we were or how we were. We declare your blessings on this generation and on their children and their children’s children to a thousand generations. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

**BENIDICTION (Pastor Tom Deviney, Bethany United Methodist Church)**

Almighty Father, we thank You that You have heard the prayers we have uttered. We thank You that You have breathed Your life into each of us and into each of these prayers. We know that Your Word does not return to You empty, but that It accomplishes that which You purpose and succeeds in that for which You send it. So, we claim the accomplishment of Your Word. May Your Glory shine and overcome the darkness of this world. May Your Grace restore hope to the hopeless. May Your Love drive out hurt and hatred. May Your Wisdom replace our folly. May Your Peace overwhelm injustice and war. May Your Life overcome sickness and death. May Your promise be fulfilled that, “…the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

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