

*God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.*

*Bring hope that you will make us the equal
of whatever lies ahead.*

*Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.*

-Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 765

Prayers of the People for Easter season in a time of Quarantine

Written by The Rev. Dr. D. Stuart Dunnan, Headmaster, Saint James School, Hagerstown, Md.

Sustaining God, loving Father, we ask for your presence and guidance as we respond to the spread of the novel Coronavirus in the world, our countries, our communities, and our school. We ask your blessing upon all in authority over us, that they may make wise decisions and act decisively to protect us and maintain the good order of the societies and economies in which we live and work. We ask your blessing upon our armed forces, police and first responders, and especially upon all who are called professionally and vocationally to give of themselves so bravely and selflessly to heal and care for us should we fall ill: our doctors and nurses, and all who support them.

We pray especially for those who are more vulnerable: the elderly and the infirm, the poor and the homeless, and for all who live alone. We pray for all who are now seriously ill and for the souls of those who have died. May they rest in peace with you.

During this time of physical isolation and continuing distance, help us to keep our relationships and our community strong; bless the love which binds us together and make it stronger. Bless our parish, families, friends, and all who support us; guide our teachers and our students in their new adventure of “distance learning”; keep everyone safe at home; and give us your gifts of faith – of perspective, gratitude, and courage – so that we may face our own challenges gracefully, and respond generously to the challenges of others. Save us from pride and selfishness, and from the panic and fear which act against your love for us.

And help us to use this time of uncertainty to grow closer to you, to acknowledge our need for you and our need for each other, so that we may live with the unanswered questions which

confront us with the hope and confidence that come from believing in you – as your Spirit inspires us, and as your Son has shown us, even on his Cross, which redeems and saves us all.

So, may he walk with us on our new path in this dark forest, and may we see with him your light shining before us, your angels as they guard and care for us, may we all pray:

God of all creation, whose people prepared a tabernacle for you and carried it with them through the wilderness so they would never be alone: If we must venture into a landscape transformed by crisis, may we be living vessels of your mercy, grace, and love. Remind us to carry our treasure gingerly, with a respectful four cubits between ourselves and all the other tabernacles. Make of us receptacles of friendliness, patience, and forgiveness in parking lots and the marketplace. May we be balm for the sick and the isolated and promote what is best for all your people. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. (Final prayer written by The Rt. Rev. John Taylor, Bishop of Los Angeles)

Please especially pray for those in our own community:

Kevin; Cam; Peg; Pam Stewart; Carolyn Moore; Edward; Jack and Betty McDermott; Jeremy Tucker; the Brooks family; Amelia Mello; Julie; Robert Pearson; Dustin; Hunter Fierro; Tadd Lyman; Shirley; Harry Hart; Ada Power; Larry Parker; Bayard Chanler; Carol; Marcie Vega; Eleanor; Vicky and Bill; Arnie Joy; Maxine; Judith Shepherd; Ron; Andrew; Joanne Scott; Tiffany Andrews; Seana Roubinek; Carolyn Morris; Amy; Joan Pottle; Paul Whittaker; Anne; Sandy Lyle; Brian Fitzpatrick; Skip Groman; Kathy Kulick; Lainie Vreeland; David Harper; Susan Conrad; Elaine.

We pray that you may give to the departed eternal rest and give comfort to their families.

Please add additional personal prayers.