

# Prayers for the COVID-19 outbreak



***Rev. Lee Hull Moses, Chief of Staff, Office of the General Minister and President***

## ***A prayer for unprecedented times.***

God of all life and all hope, hear our prayers. As the world grows ever more anxious and fearful, may your spirit of comfort and peace be with us. As changes sweep over us, as uncertainty surrounds us, help us to know that you are with us. Always and forever, you are with us, and nothing can separate us from your love. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## ***A prayer for the healers among us.***

Gracious and merciful God, we lift our prayers today for the healers among us. We pray for hospital staff, nurses, doctors, and chaplains. We pray for first responders. We pray for janitorial staff who keep our healing places clean. We pray for scientists who are working on a cure and a vaccine. We pray for caregivers who bring meals and medicine. We are grateful for them, O God. Give them strength to do the work they are called to do. Amen.

## ***A prayer for the pastors.***

Almighty God, we pray for the pastors who are preaching their way through the wilderness. Be with them as they help their congregations find new ways of being church. Give them your creative spirit. Give them prophetic words. Give them courage. But also, God, remind them that none of us has done this before, that we are all finding our way. Assure them that they are enough and that they have what they need to lead your people. May your presence give them strength. Amen.

## ***A prayer for those who feel alone.***

Creator God, we know that we are not meant to be alone, and yet in these days of social distancing, we are forced to separate ourselves. We wave at neighbors across the yard and video chat with friends, but it is not the same as sharing a cup of coffee. We miss handshakes and hugs. We pray especially for those who live by themselves, who already feel alone. Help us to reach out to one another. Remind us that we are all connected by your love. Amen.

***A prayer for those whose plans have changed.***

God of the broken-hearted, there are so many disappointments: events that had been so carefully planned, sports that had been so diligently practiced for, theater that had been so painstakingly rehearsed, vacations and family gatherings that had been so eagerly anticipated. Let us not dismiss this grief. Comfort us in our sorrow and share our pain. Amen.

***A prayer for the most vulnerable among us.***

Holy God, keep us mindful of those who lack basic resources in these times. We pray for those who are hungry or without a safe place to stay. We pray for those in homeless shelters, in prisons, in detention centers, where close quarters make social distancing even more difficult. We follow a Christ who looked out for the most vulnerable, the least, the last, and the lost. Help us too, in these anxious times, to serve first the ones who need the most. Amen.

***A prayer for the children.***

God of laughter and delight, we pray for our children. We pray for the children whose routines have been suddenly upended, who are cooped up at home with anxious parents, who aren't able to see their friends, all for reasons they don't completely understand. Protect them from our fear. Surround them with your love. Give them a future with hope. Amen.