PRAYERS FOR A PANDEMIC

**COVID-19 Pandemic Responses**

**The Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island**

**March 24, 2020**



**Prayer for a Pandemic**

*(from St. Paul’s Ch., Lexington, KN, shared by Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls)*

May we who are merely inconvenienced

 Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors

 Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

 Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close,

 Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

 Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

 Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

 Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,

 Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

 Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour.

Amen.

**PRAYERS FROM VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Prayers written by the Rev. Dr. Barney Hawkins

**A Prayer for a Person Suffering with COVID-19** *(use over the phone or on Zoom/FaceTime)*

God of healing, God of hope, our souls are hungry for health and happiness. You are the Maker

and Keeper of billions of galaxies of stars and planets seething in their violence. You are the

delicate fashioner of the hummingbird’s wings and the infant’s lungs. You are the architect and

creator of our fragile bodies. We know you are the caring Abba of us all. Be with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and

drive far from her all sickness and all anxiety in body, mind, spirit and relationships. Deliver her

from her suffering and may goodness and mercy follow her all the days of her life. We pray in

the name of the Great Physician, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

**A Prayer for a Person in a 14-day Self-Quarantine**

*(Infused with the poetry of Malcolm Guite)*

Suffering God, your Beloved Son endured temptations and the wilderness for forty days after his

Baptism. New life gave him suffering. The Light was dark and the Word without a voice. From

the solitary Jesus we learn that the broken bread is our only food. For once and always, O Lord,

be present to those in self-quarantine. Give them ears to hear you say: “I am here.” Give them

the grace to breathe in the perfect love that casts out fear. Give them food for their bodies and

hope for their beings. This is our prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ. In the healing

name of Jesus, we make our petitions. Amen and so be it.

**A Prayer for an Online Service of Parishioners, When Regular Services Have Been Canceled**

*(Echoing the poetry of Mary Oliver)*

Almighty God of the Cross and Loving God of Community, we are not in a church building today

but Church is never canceled. We are not wise, and not very often kind. But we are the Body of

Christ in your suffering world. We know that our vocation is to be the Light of this Christ whose

Body we are. Give us courage to be the Church and to keep our minds on what matters—which is

to keep loving the world which you have called good. Buildings crumble; the Church Year

passes; but your Church endures from generation to generation. Make this for us a Feast Day of

your Protection, your Plenty, your Purpose, your Plan and your Peace. All this we ask, as we pray

in silence, with all the Saints and with each other. Amen.

**A Prayer for Our Nation and the World in the Light of this Pandemic**

*(With indebtedness to Malcolm Guite and Flannery O’Connor, two of my companions on the way)*

Ever-creating God, be with us as the pall of this COVID-19 pandemic falls upon this “fragile

earth” which is our “island home.” We hold in our hearts and prayers all who are suffering in our

nation from “sea to shining sea.” We pray for the whole world. Our common anxiety is making

us one, undivided human family. We pray for world leaders as they chart these unknown waters.

Strengthen them to walk into the Light of a new, healing day for the whole planet. Help us to

cross our broken lands and be for each other bridges back to heaven. Lift the cares to which we

cling. Descend, O God, on us all to be our Guest. Show us how to find in everything blessing and

rest. May this be our prayer while we do not know how to pray and until the last light lingers in

the west. Amen, in the name of our creating, redeeming and sustaining God.



Prayers Written by the Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger

**Prayer in Time of Isolation**

Almighty God: Our times are in your hand. We call upon you in this hour of our need, when we

are lonely and must stand apart. Be our strength, O Sovereign Lord, our calm in the midst of

raging seas, our refuge and our dwelling place. Sanctify to us this time drawn away from others,

even as your Son, O Father, drew away to a lonely place for prayer. Deepen our need of you, O

Lord, that every breath may be a whisper of the Spirit’s prompting, a renewed searching of the

deep things of God. Stir up in us the great act of intercession, that we may spend our time apart

in prayer for the world you created and sustain. Bless us in our turning toward you, and make us

a blessing to those who stand in need of you, the whole fragile earth. All this we ask in the name

of great Physician, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Prayer in Time of Pandemic**

This hour we turn to you, O Lord, in full knowledge of our frailty, our vulnerability, and our

great need as your mortal creatures. We cry to you, as one human family, unsure of the path

ahead, unequal to the unseen forces around us, frightened by the sickness and death that seem

all too real to us now. Stir up your strength and visit us, O Lord; be our shield and rock and

hiding place! Guide our leaders, our scientists, our nurses and doctors. Give them wisdom and

fill their hearts with courage and determination. Make even this hour, O Lord, a season of

blessing for us, that in fear we find you mighty to save, and in illness or death, we find the cross

to be none other than the way of life. All this we ask in the name of the One who bore all our

infirmities, even Jesus Christ our Risen and Victorious Lord. Amen.

