

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LITANY OF SOLIDARITY AND HOPE DURING A PANDEMIC

Coordinated by Young Adults of the Diocese of Olympia. Original version by Joseph P. Shadle, Prayers during the coronavirus pandemic, Xavier University.

Eternal Spirit. Earth Maker, Creator of all that is, “racism is as virulent as covid-19, infecting people who seem to have no outward symptoms, until behavior reveals the disease. The vaccine for racism is justice, the cure is equality, and the prevention is love”. (Bp Steven Charleston)

May the people of this land have eyes to see the inequity laid bare as this virus decimates Indigenous peoples across the country: food deserts, shelter deserts, healthcare deserts, water deserts, and more. It began with Papal bulls and has been perpetuated by lies and centuries of not honoring treaties.

When celebrating our rites and ceremonies, wearing our tribal clothing, speaking our first languages, we are told to go back where we came from. These misinformed souls do not know they are standing on our sacred ground, Mother Earth. She has nurtured, sheltered, and provided for us. We lived upon her respectfully, and now we grieve how our homeland has also suffered desecration.

Our God, we pray for our immigrant neighbors in detention centers, that they may be released back with their loved ones. Please keep them safe from COVID-19 and heal those who have contracted this illness in the close quarters and terrible conditions. We thank you for organizations and individuals in Seattle already fighting for immigrant rights, and we pray that your hand of justice be upon them. We also pray for those who will be affected by the DACA decision, that they can find the assistance they need to stay with their families. Finally, we ask you to protect immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. Especially during this time at home, we ask too that they can find the help they need to escape dangerous situations and find safety from both their abusers and ICE.

Our God, we pray for fierce protection over the 3.5 million of Your beloved children who are homeless in the richest nation on earth-- where there are 18.5 million vacant homes. For the willingness of Your church to serve the poor in boldness in this moment of profound crisis-- despite an earthly empire that would rather abandon Your unhoused children to fend for themselves during a plague with no running water, no heat, no restrooms, no access to healthcare, no shelter, no safety. For the humility of Your church to once again trust the poor, accept the authority of the poor, and nurture the leadership of the poor as we did back in the church of Acts 2.

Our God, we pray for those in African-American, Caribbean, and of African descent communities who have a higher risk of contracting and dying from COVID-19 due to systemic institutional challenges. May they know you are with them, and many others like them, as they lead careers and work in essential, critical industries that are outside the home, those who navigate inconsistent access to health care due to being underinsured, those who manage underlying medical conditions that leave them more susceptible to COVID-19, and

those who live in residences where it may be challenging to socially distance – due to densely populated neighborhood living that’s the result of historical redlining policies.

May they know you are with them as they continue to care for and provide for their families, and as they continue to lead rich, vital lives within their communities.

Our God, we pray for people of Asian descent who have been made to feel like they are not welcome in this country, their home, and we speak out against the violence, hatred, and xenophobia that has only increased because of COVID19.

Our God, we especially pray for the Filipino health care community who are caring for the sick here while there is a shortage of care providers in their home country. May they know you are with them, and all others like them, who encounter hate in the workplace, are exploited for their labor, and dying at higher rates, as they are afraid to speak out for fear of losing their immigration status.

Our God we pray, For the deaths of countless healthcare workers, including the two Seattle ICU workers who have died in the past weeks, and essential workers due to lack of PPE and overexposure that could have been avoided.

For those who are suffering from COVID19, and those who are afraid to seek treatment for fear of contracting it. For those more susceptible to contracting COVID19.

For those who are anxious and depressed.

For those without communities of support.

For those who are lonely.

For those who have no one to check on them.

Jad: Our God, we pray for families.

نصلي من أجل السلام في قلوب كل من ترك وطناً أو بيتاً أو عائلة، بإرادته أو غصباً عنه

For peace in the hearts of all who have left a homeland or household or family, by choice or against their will.

For parents who are exhausted, and for children and young people who feel helpless, sad, and isolated.

For those who are sheltering-at-home with their abusers, and for all whom home is not a safe place.

For those who are dying.

For those who have died.

For those who have survived.

For those who have lost loved ones.

For all those who mourn and those who comfort them.

For all those who mourn in secret, and for those who grieve alone.

For educators, especially teachers who help those with special needs, and for those with limited resources.

For grocery store workers, for delivery people, for warehouse workers, for janitors, for hospitality workers, and all other workers who keep the economy going.

For firefighters, police, and emergency medical workers.

For doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals.

For those who serve in the armed forces, especially those who have been called in to help fight the virus.

For public officials, especially our Governor Jay Inslee as he guides the state of Washington through this crisis.

For our Nation, as we are forced to wrestle with the inequities and violence that have been exposed in recent weeks. Help us to resist looking away, and may we be ready to answer for the wrongful deaths of your Beloved children. We mourn and are angered by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others. We condemn those who abuse their power and thwart justice, and we demand that those who exploit tragedy to sow violence and hatred be held accountable. Give us the Grace to follow the example of communities all over this Nation overcoming racial, religious, and economic differences to love, protect, and build each other up. Give us the courage and the strength to speak out, the humility and compassion to listen, and the perseverance and will to become the Beloved Community.

Our God, we pray

For peace in our city and in our world.

For solidarity and unity among all peoples.

For a greater appreciation and love of all humanity.

For patience and perseverance.

For calm in the midst of fear.

For hope in times of despair.

Great Creator, come. Show us the way to navigate the challenges of this time. Great Creator, come. Show us the opportunities for change, new vision, helping us to trust in a future where you await.

In this Sacred Hoop of Life, Eternal One, bring your gentle peace, bring understanding, bring healing to our bodies, our minds, our Mother.

Abide with us, that there may be reconciliation among all peoples, restoration through your love, and renewal that we may sing a new song of healing and community. May we be gospel in the world. Amen.