

Pastoral Prayers for Sunday, May 3, 2020

Loving God, who unites and connects us all, we give thanks that we are never alone. Even in our time of isolation you are with us, you hold us close, and you connect us in spirit with all the people whom we love.

Caring God, who is with us in every trouble and trial, we give thanks you are with us through all the pain and sorrow that has come with this pandemic. You were with your people in the wilderness when they left Egypt; you were with David when he was in exile in the desert; you were with Jonah in the belly of the great fish; you were with Daniel in the lion's den. You are with your people in all the most difficult times, and you are with us now.

Lord, we pray for a vaccine for the corona virus and we pray for effective treatment to lessen the symptoms of the disease.

We pray for a world in isolation, that all people would have patience, and consideration for the vulnerable. Give us the grace and wisdom to stay home.

We pray for every person who has lost a loved one to the virus. We pray for everyone who is sick with the virus now. We pray for front line medical workers, and all of the people who are working to keep our medical facilities open.

We pray for the leaders who are overseeing societal responses to the pandemic. Give them wisdom, grace, and the humility to listen to the people who know best.

We pray for essential workers whose work has often been disregarded. Now we realize how much we need each other.

We pray for all those people whose ability to earn a living has been compromised. We pray for business owners whose livelihood and future are now in jeopardy.

We continue to pray for all the people whose lives have been hurt by the cruel violence in Portapique, Nova Scotia. We pray healing for a society that allows domestic violence to be an ongoing reality.

We pray for all vulnerable people in our society. Sometimes we allow the weak, the frail and the poor to be pushed aside and crushed. Cure us of this cruelty, O God, give us the mind of Christ, give us your Holy Spirit, so that we will feel the hurt of all who suffer, and have the will to reach out with love and tenderness.

Bless the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, and all of its members, adherents and supporters as they seek the best way to serve you in the future.

Bless the world with your presence, O God.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus. Amen.