

Pastoral Prayers for the 7th Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

Loving and gracious God, we come to you in the name of Jesus, lifting our thanksgiving to you for all the wonderful ways in which you are present in the world. You are with us in every place where the dignity, eternal worth, and equality of all people is upheld.

We want to see you active in our world. We want to see a burning bush as Moses did. We want to see an angel as Daniel did in the lion's den. We want to see Jesus walking on the water as the disciples did. But sometimes you reveal yourself to us in ways that are not quite so dramatic.

In the midst of a pandemic you are with us and active in:

- Medical researchers seeking a vaccine
- Drs., Nurses and hospital staff, working to heal and restore
- Front line workers, risking life daily to maintain a healthy society
- Essential workers, maintaining the establishments that strengthen our community
- Families caring for loved ones
- Families in isolation missing their loved ones
- Families who are grieving
- People who have lost employment and are seeking new ways to support themselves
- People reaching out to neighbours to bring groceries or other needed supplies
- Musicians posting songs of hope
- Teachers posting lessons to help their students
- And in every person doing their best to help others

Lord, we continue to pray for healing for every person who is suffering with Covid-19. We are praying for helpful treatment. We are praying for an effective vaccine. We are praying for wisdom, grace and compassion for all our leaders.

We are praying for front-line medical workers and all people whose work supports our medical facilities. We are praying for healing and safety in our senior's homes. We are praying for every essential worker whose health is in jeopardy on a daily basis.

We are praying for every person whose life has been adversely affected by Covid-19, and we pray that we as a community will overcome this obstacle with kindness, compassion and love for our neighbours.

We pray for all the people for whom this pandemic is particularly difficult. We pray for the lonely, the frightened, and all those who have no one to help them through this difficult time. Let them feel your presence and your love. Comfort them, for the sake of Christ.

We pray for people who are suffering around the world as a result of warfare, famine, drought, or natural disasters. Renew our missionary zeal so that we will continue to help them.

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, who died for our sins and was raised again for us. Amen.