

Pastoral Prayers for 3rd Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

Prayers

Tender and Loving God, we come to you in the name of Jesus our Saviour.

We lift all our praise to you for your endless goodness and grace. Your will for all of creation is wholeness, healing and restoration. You feel our suffering with us. You weep with us, tear for tear, when we grieve. We are thankful for your gift of life, and for your presence with us at all times and in all things.

We lift our prayers to you at a time when the world is in a state of despair and disbelief. We lift to you our prayers with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We pray for all those who have lost a loved one to Covid-19 or who are sick and suffering with the virus right now. Let all of them feel your comfort and peace, restore their health, and let all of us act with compassion and grace towards them.

We pray for everyone who is in quarantine, and who yearns to be with their family and friends, but cannot due to the likelihood of transmitting the virus. Be a comfort to them.

We pray your blessing and protection for front-line workers who daily put their health on the line for the sake of their community. Bless the doctors, nurses and all hospital staff as they care for the ill and maintain our medical facilities. Bless medical researchers in their quest to find a treatment and an effective vaccine.

We pray for the vulnerable who are at a higher risk of infection due to age, compromised health or unavoidable exposure.

We pray for the leaders who are responsible for creating and implementing procedures to curb the spread of the disease. Give them wisdom, grace and compassion. Give them the humility to listen to the medical professionals who best understand how to contain a pandemic.

We pray for families who are struggling at home. Some are confined to small spaces which makes caring for children an ongoing challenge. Give them patience, energy and grace.

We pray for all those who have been deemed to be essential workers. In many cases they are people who have not been properly respected or appreciated by the society around them, but now in a time of pandemic we realise that we cannot survive without them. Bless grocery store

clerks, truck drivers and many others. Bless them with all the strength and endurance they need. Help us to continue to appreciate them even when the pandemic is over.

We pray for the owners of business whose livelihood is now threatened and who have minimum or no resources to fall back on. Let us support them as we are able, and let us continue to appreciate their important place in maintaining a healthy society.

We pray for all others whose lives have been disrupted or diminished by the virus. We pray for an end to the virus, and we pray that when it is done, we will be a society with more respect, more care and more compassion for all people.

Lord we pray for all the victims of the brutal and senseless acts of violence in Portapique, Nova Scotia. Bless those who have lost loved ones, bless the children, the spouses, the parents, the brothers and sisters, the friends, the neighbours and the whole grieving and hurting community.

We pray for the police and the first responders who have lost a colleague, and who now continue to risk their lives on a daily basis for the good of the community.

We pray for all the people who will reach out to help and heal those who have been bereaved. Bless and strengthen the helpers who do so much good for humankind.

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 Rev. Dr. Fred Shaffer and Susan Shaffer as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May retirement be a time of wonderful blessing and joy for them.

Bless the world with your presence, O God.

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