

Joan Watson
St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 22, 2020

Pastoral Prayer

O God of vast and wondrous ways, you, in whom all time is marked, all manner of life is held, be ever present with us in these days that seem so strange, so threatening. Remind us that we live because you live, and always will. Keep us close to you and one another in your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and truth, the Spirit of comfort and joy; the Spirit who brings us peace that exceeds our comprehension. The spirit who offers prayers for which we have no words and little awareness.

We pray today for all in harms way. That could be any of us, we're told, but particularly we pray for those dealing with all forms of sickness—be they physical or mental, spiritual or relational. You are the great physician. Heal, O God, as only you can.

We pray for all who are on the frontlines...all who are caring for the sick; all who are burying the dead; all who are researching, trying to find a cure; all who are seeking to guide and lead; all who have to decide without enough information, or who have to decide without a good choice. Be for them strength, a steady hand, a clear mind, a sure presence in this troubled time; Grant them the wisdom of the ages; and comfort them with the word that you do not expect perfection only faithfulness.

We pray for all of us, O God...those who can do small things, those who have had to learn to wait and to obey; those who are called on to improvise....to keep things going. It is on you that we lean on, O God...and on each other. Keep us present in creative and faithful ways; keep us kind and honest ...and grant us the interception of humor that can heal, for we ask these things and so very many more things in the name of Jesus who taught disciples to pray together saying...

Our Father, who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.