

...In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)

Beloved, let us pray

Here is a prayer by Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran Pastor in Denver, CO.

For the layers of comfort and convenience that surrounded our lives and that we never considered a blessing but always just took for granted, forgive us.

For we who must grieve in isolation and not in community, comfort us.

For we who care for the sick, protect us.

For the ability to turn off the fear-mongering and unhelpful commentary and worst-case scenario click bait, strengthen us.

For the times when we are all out of creative ideas for how to get through this with cooped up kids, inspire us.

For we who are now cutting our own bangs at home, guide us.

For the grace to allow ourselves and others to just be less productive, shower us.

For the generosity needed from those of us who have more resources, empower us.

From our own selfish inclinations, deliver us.

For just being your children, none of whom have done a global pandemic before, love us.

For the days ahead, accompany us.

God unbound by time, help us to know that you are already present in the future we are fearing. Amen

As we are home bound, some working, some cleaning, some teaching their children biology, some cooking, some reading, some talking on the phone, some writing, some hooked on Hallmark, let us not forget to take time for prayer. It is important to be in prayer always – and there is no shortage of things to pray for and to give thanks for right now. We pray for those working to find a cure or a preventative vaccine, for those who must leave the safety of their homes to work on what has become the front line – healthcare workers, clerks and those who stock shelves at our stores, those in the pharmacy, those who deliver mail and packages, truck drivers, those making essential gear for those in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. We pray for the sick, those living in fear, the vulnerable, the lonely. The list goes on.

There is much to give thanks for. For those who are putting their lives on the line to feed the hungry and care for those in need. For those who still support the ministry of a church within they cannot physically gather. For those who reach out to encourage and entertain. For the arrival of spring. For the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The list goes on.

As a congregation which cannot gather together, let us pray together. I suggest we all stop at 10am each morning to pray. To remember those in need and to give thanks for the blessing we have – seen and unseen. Set an alarm and let us pray.

Together we will get through this. Together we will support each other. Together we become stronger. Together – we will pray.

May God give you peace.

Pastor Tonia