

## Prayer for the World

- by Jennifer Hornbuckle

God of Heaven and Earth, and all Creation, Our hearts are hurting this day, for a world that is facing the fear of the unknown. We pray for all touched by the Coronavirus: the exposed, the sick, those waiting to be tested, in all of their sufferings. We pray, God, for healing, light and peace for all of them.

We lift up to you those who are suffering in isolation: Those who are in nursing facilities and hospitals. Ease their loneliness and send gentle waves of love to comfort them. May they and their loved ones know your Presence in very deeply felt ways.

We pray for paid and unpaid medical care workers: those who are on the forefront of response and treatment, for doctors, nurses, healthcare aides, CDC workers, researchers, nursing home and hospital staff. For paid workers and volunteers in social, legal, and government services. For travelers and for workers in the travel industry who are overwhelmed, fatigued, and afraid, grant traveling mercies, peace and rest.

We ask for discernment and clarity, and peace and rest for all, and may all people everywhere have the healthcare they need.

We pray for those on the margins: for immigrants and refugees around the world who are suffering or awaiting asylum, the houseless, the hungry, the incarcerated, and many unnamed others. We are reminded that you do not draw margins, but call us to draw all people into a circle of love.

We ask that your grace be nigh to those who are anxious, struggling with mental anguish over what is, or what may be.

We pray for school and college-age students, parents, and teachers and staff everywhere who are adjusting to sudden changes and new ways of learning together at this time.

We pray for the children of the world, whose spirits and love shine brightly. Help us to create a more just and peaceful home for their tomorrows.

We pray for our president, our nation's leaders, and other world leaders. May our leaders seek ways to work together that will help to bring us closer to one another as members of the human race, and of your creation.

May we all remember the words of the gospel writer John, who proclaims that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

May we all carry with us the words of the prophet Ezekiel, who reminds us that your spirit gives life in the driest and most desolate places, and that spirit dwells within each of us, and all of your creation.

Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer, and guide us in the way of your Peace. Amen.