

Porter C. Taylor

Blog

A Liturgy During a Pandemic

BY PORTER C. TAYLOR ON MARCH 16, 2020~~MARCH 23, 2020~~



Since the publication of this post, I have updated the liturgy to include an original Collect as part of the closing section. The updated liturgy is the second document provided at the bottom of this post.

One of the beautiful things about liturgy is that it can be used to mark the highest highs and lowest lows of life. The joys of birth, baptism, marriage, and ordination are commemorated with individual rites; the sorrow of death has its own liturgy; we mark time by day, week, and year with various offices.

Liturgy helps us answer the question, *How then shall we pray?*

As we face this global pandemic of COVID-19, many of us find ourselves full of anxiety. Through social-distancing, self-isolation, and quarantine, how are we to pray? Through states of emergency and government lockdowns, how are we to pray? As our daily lives are turned upside down with school closings, job uncertainties, and economic instability, how are we to pray?

The answer is often, *I don't know*. It is difficult to find concrete words to pray in circumstances for which most of us have no context. In an attempt to give us a common language of prayer during this time, I have written a liturgy specifically designed for use during this global pandemic.

In this liturgy, you will find a prayer of general confession devoted to fear, anxiety, and worry; included within the intercessions are prayers for those who are sick, for health workers, for churches, and for all of humanity; I have included the General Thanksgiving because all of prayer (and liturgy) is doxological; finally, I have included some prayers for specific times of the day. You can use this liturgy once or often throughout the day. It has been composed for both individual and family use. Lastly, I have written it in the hopes that it gives us a shared language with which we can approach Almighty God in prayer and supplication, praise and lament, sorrow and hope.

You can access the liturgy below:

[a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct \(https://porterctaylor.com/files/wordpress.com/2020/03/a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct.pdf\)](https://porterctaylor.com/files/wordpress.com/2020/03/a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct.pdf) (https://porterctaylor.com/files/wordpress.com/2020/03/a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct.pdf)

UPDATED LITURGY:

[a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct-final \(https://porterctaylor.com/files/wordpress.com/2020/03/a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct-final.pdf\)](https://porterctaylor.com/files/wordpress.com/2020/03/a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct-final.pdf) Download (https://porterctaylor.com/files/wordpress.com/2020/03/a-liturgy-during-a-pandemic-pct-final.pdf)

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