

Prayer for March 22, 2020

Holy and Blessed One,

We mostly live in comfort – well, we assume we live in comfort. The bruises and illnesses, even the broken bones, they come and go. They show. They pass.

We tend to hide or hide from the things that disrupt that comfort, the comfort we enjoy, the comfort we like to project to the world, the comfort that denies our hurts, our longings, and our needs. Do we feel sick? “No matter,” we announce. “I can work through this.” Are we hungry? “No matter,” we announce. “Just one more thing to do and then I’ll eat.” Are we afraid? “No matter,” we announce. “No fear.”

No fear.

Our comfort strains to deceive us, God. Our comfort strains to deceive those around. Our comfort strains to deceive you.

Do not be deceived.

We, those of us in health, are fearful now. We are overwhelmed with information, some of which we know to be false, and some of which we are uncertain about its truth. We are fearful because an acute illness is frightening. We are fearful because we love one another and we long for our friends to be well. We are fearful because the signs are clear that this illness will visit, will afflict us, and may even carry some of our loved ones away before we want to let them go.

Do not be deceived by our comfort, O God. Hear our honest fears. Feel our pains and illnesses. See our need for strength and healing and yes, for the deep comfort of your presence.

We seek your grace to help us slow the illnesses. We seek your grace to strengthen those already stricken with something else. We seek your grace to slow our fear-driven beating hearts, and seize something that is better than comfort, better than deceit. Help us seize our courage.

In courage we seek your aid, O God. In courage we seek your grace. In courage we declare your love.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.