

Prayer for March 29, 2020

Holy and Loving One,

You who know the fall of every sparrow, send your grace to us, made in your image. We gaze in horrified amazement at a world brought so quickly to a standstill by a dangerous and rapidly spreading disease. We limit our contact with one another, praying that we might not become ill, praying that we might not make another ill, praying for those who are dangerously sick, praying for those who are infected and not showing symptoms.

Give us strength and courage for this frightening time.

Lend resilience and protection to those who treat the suffering. May the doctors, nurses, and therapists, the technicians and administrators, the cleaning personnel and the EMTs be protected both by their gear and by your hand. May they get enough sleep that they can make sound decisions. May they be comforted in the safety of their families. May they be reassured by your constant presence.

May those who struggle with other illnesses find your healing in this time. As more and more people fall ill, we pray that you might find a way for everyone to find the treatment they need when they need it. Give wisdom to those choosing what to try next. Give guidance to the leaders of the nations who strive to place supplies where they need to go.

We pray for those who grieve in this time. So, so many have already died from COVID-19, O God. More will come, we know in anguish. We know as well that others come to their end of their life in this time unrelated to the pandemic, and that one of the most agonizing dimensions of this crisis is the separation. So many, O God, will die without their families near. Give them a special comfort as they go from us to you, O God. Give their families the strong embrace that they cannot receive from anyone else. Hold them in your mercy, join them in their tears.

Loving God, guide us all to respond to this crisis out of compassion instead of greed. Let us respond in courage and not in selfishness. Let us respond in aloha and not with condemnation and hate. You are love. May we prove true to your image in this time, and every time.

In Jesus' name, Amen.